

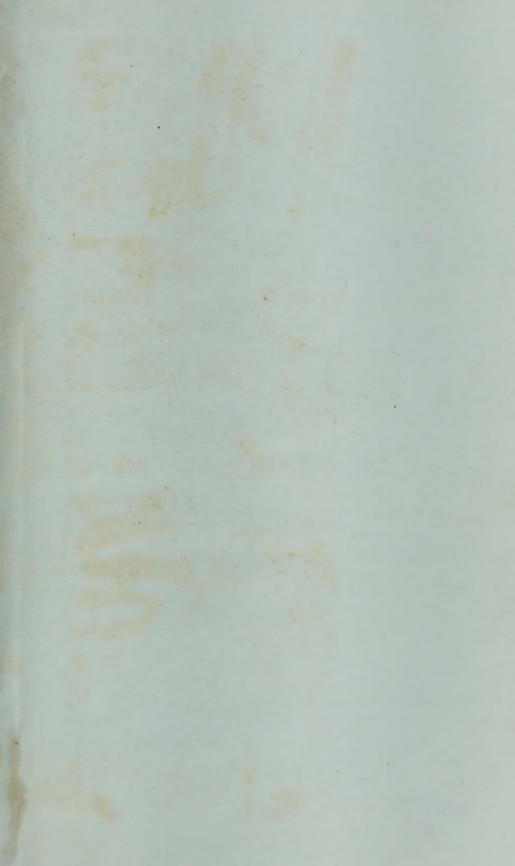
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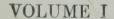
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FAMOUS ENGLISHMEN



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JOHN FINNEMORE

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ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK 1906

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PREFACE.

ONE of the schemes recently issued by the Board of Education suggests lessons on great Englishmen as a suitable historical course for the middle division of a school. As the biographical method of teaching history is, deservedly, a favourite, it is probable that such a course will be widely adopted. Nor is it likely to be confined to the class of school specifically mentioned in the scheme, for the new liberty would permit of its adoption in any school. It is thought that teachers taking up history on these lines would find Readers prepared directly to that end of considerable use. There will be two volumes—one containing lives down to 1603, the second coming to the present day. Many teachers, working in schools where divisions are grouped, have expressed a wish for a couple of books forming a complete twoyears' course, this being the usual time any child stays in a given group. These two books will meet the requirement. They will offer the advantage of a continuous subject, and yet the Reader may be changed annually as prescribed. At the same time, they will be equally available in schools where each division is large enough to be handled singly.

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FAMOUS ENGLISHMEN

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

The boys and girls who will read this book are the children of a great and famous Empire. No Empire in history has ever held within its borders such a wonderful variety of races, speeches, customs, religions. Whence did this mighty Empire spring? Who laid its foundations and built up its world-wide sway, until 'its morning drum-beat, following the sun, or keeping company with the hours, encircles the globe with one continuous strain of the martial airs of England'?

If we look into history to answer these questions, we see great figures in every age. We read of statesmen who laid deep plans, of soldiers and sailors who carried them out, of men who made England strong at home, and of men who made England strong abroad.

It is of these Famous Englishmen that we shall read. It is true that the lives of some of them were spent in this land long before there was any thought of an Empire. They lived hundreds of years ago, when the English held possession of only part of our own little island. But for all that, our Empire of to-day lies upon foundations which they helped to lay. Had they not in their time striven to make England strong and free, there could have been no British Empire as we know it.

Perhaps, again, someone may say: 'What is the use of reading about Famous Englishmen? I do not feel that I am going to become famous. I would rather read about something within my reach, something that ordinary people can do.'

Now, it is quite true that very few people have such gifts as to become great, but everyone can strive his utmost to become a worthy member of a great people, and that is no mean thing. More, it has much to do with the making of the great man himself.

Of what use is it for a great statesman to make wise laws, if the people will not obey them? Of what use is it for the great general to lay the most skilful plans, if his soldiers are faint-hearted? Of what use is it for the great sailor to turn his prow to sea, if there are cowards in the crew?

We read in our history time and again of battles such as Agincourt and Crecy, where a small band of English faced overwhelming numbers of a powerful enemy. Their case seemed utterly hopeless, but they won the day, and the name of their leader became great and famous. Yet where would be his glory but for those dauntless English hearts whose names we do not know?

We read of Drake, the first Englishman who sailed round the world. Yet he did not sail alone. Every sea-dog of his crew had as stout a heart as the great commander, or that wonderful voyage could never have been carried through. A hero needs heroes to follow him. A great man must be greatly supported.

Suppose we look at it in another way. Many of you have seen a statue. A statue is a likeness in marble or bronze of a man or woman whom people wish to remember. It is generally set up in a public place, but not on the ground, for then it would be easily hidden. So, in order that everyone may see it, it is put up on a great block of stone or marble called a pedestal.

In every age we may call the great man the statue, and the people who supported him the pedestal. Few people in our time will become statues, but we can all take our share in forming a firm pedestal in support of a great leader and a great cause.

And you will find that a really great man is always eager to recognise that the people who support him are sharers of his honour and his fame.

It does not lessen his glory, this generous sharing with his followers; nay, rather, it increases and ennobles it, taking away all taint of selfishness.

Remember, then, that men and women who wisely obey wise laws, who greatly support great men and great aims, are just as necessary as the famous leader himself. We can all become such men and women if we try. Without them it is quite certain that the future will contain very few Famous Englishmen.

NOTES.

Empire, a collection of kingdoms. | There are English soldiers in every Sway, rule.

Morning drum-beat. This refers to our soldiers turning out every morning at the beat of the drum.

Martial, warlike

Statesmen, men who govern a country.

part of the world.

ALFRED THE GREAT.

I. The Danes.

- 1. The foremost name in early English history is that of Alfred the Great, who reigned from 871 to 901 A.D. And it is a fitting thing that our record of Famous Englishmen should open with him, for he showed to the full every quality which has marked the greatest of our race.
- 2. He was undaunted in defeat and unspoiled by success; he was a man of perfect honesty, simple, high-minded, of a most lovable nature, and his whole heart and mind were filled with the desire to do his utmost for his people.
- 3. Alfred was born in 849 at Wantage, in Berkshire. His father was Ethelwulf, King of Wessex. England at that time was divided into several kingdoms, and Wessex was that part of the country lying south of the Thames. As a boy Alfred went

with his father Ethelwulf to Rome, and there received part of his education. We know that he loved learning, and there is a pretty story of how



ALFRED THE GREAT.

he learned to read. Indeed, round Alfred's name many stories cluster. In this short sketch of him, however, we shall put aside all the familiar tales of his boyhood and early manhood, and consider only the actions which entitle him to be called a Famous Englishman.

4. He grew up in a very troubled time, when England needed wise heads and strong hands, for the Danes, the Northmen, were making savage

onslaughts on the country. The Danes were a fierce race of heathen people who came over from Denmark in long ships driven by oars, and packed close with warriors who handled the oar or the great battle-axe with equal skill.



BRITAIN IN THE TIME OF KING ALFRED.

- 5. They were of the same race and blood as the English themselves, but the English had become Christians, and were more civilized than the savage Danes. At first the latter thought only of plunder. They would pull their long ships up some broadmouthed English river, such as the Humber or Thames, run them ashore, and then spread over the country in search of booty, burning the houses and killing the people.
- 6. When the alarm was sounded and the English collected in force to attack the invaders, the latter slipped back to their ships, put their plunder aboard, and were gone. They were too quick to be caught. Sometimes they would seize a number of horses, gallop to a town, sack it, ride back at full speed with whatever they had seized, and be off to sea before the Ealdorman, the ruler of the district, could gather his troops to prevent them.
- 7. Soon the Danes began to seize upon the land itself. Instead of gathering plunder and going back home with it, they began to drive the English away and settle upon the soil. This happened first in the North of England, in Northumbria, but Alfred's father had his hands full in trying to keep the Danes out of Wessex also.
 - 8. He fought several sharp battles before his

death in 858, and then four of his sons came to the throne one after the other. Alfred was the fourth, and he became King in 871, his brother Ethelred having fallen in battle with the Danes.

9. The men of Wessex, the West Saxons, had now to fight with all their might against the cruel Northmen, who came every year in greater and greater numbers to try and win Wessex for their own. (Asser, a writer of the time and a friend of Alfred, says: 'The Danes were fighting for victory, the English for life, their loved ones, and their country.') Luckily for the West Saxons, they had now a great leader, a man whom no defeat could dishearten, whom no ill-fortune could crush.

NOTES.

Undaunted, not frightened, not east down.

Danes. The Danes came not only from the country we call Denmark, but from Norway and Sweden as well.

Ealdorman, the elder-man, the chief man in an Anglo-Saxon town

or district. The name still exists in Alderman.

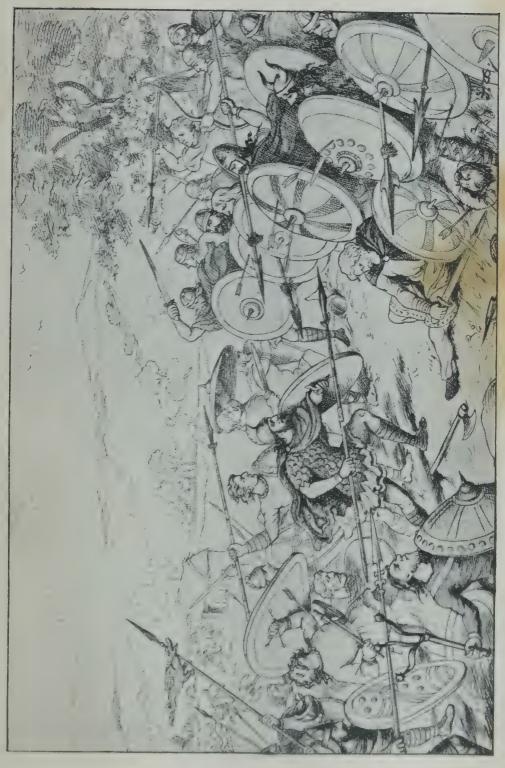
Northumbria, the part of England north of the Humber.

Wessex, the southern part of England, west of Kent and south of the Thames.

II. The Treaty of Wedmore.

1. Alfred was only twenty-two when he came to the throne, but he was already a famous warrior, and had won for himself a great name as second in command under his brother. In his first year as King he fought a severe battle at Wilton, and then for a few years the Danes left Wessex alone, while they overran other parts of England.

- 2. In 878 the Danish King, Guthrum, made a sudden attack upon Wessex. So swift was the onset, and so strong the enemy, that Alfred was taken by surprise and had to fly for his life. He took refuge in the island of Athelney, among the fens of Somerset.) It seemed as if the cause of Wessex was hopeless.
- 3. But the very ease of the victory made the Danes careless. They soon learned that it was a dangerous thing to disregard Alfred. He gathered the West Saxons together, fell suddenly upon the invaders, and overthrew them with terrible slaughter at Ethandun, in Wiltshire. So complete was his victory that the Danes begged for peace. Their King, Guthrum, submitted to Alfred, agreed to become a Christian, and was ever afterwards faithful to him.
- 4. Alfred made peace with the Northmen, and a treaty was arranged called the Treaty of Wedmore. By this England was divided between Alfred and the Danes. If you take a map of England and draw a line from Chester to London, you will have a good general idea of this division. North of the line the land belonged to the Danes, south of it to Alfred and the West Saxons.



- 5. Nothing shows the great judgment and good sense of Alfred better than this treaty. He might have attempted to drive the Danes out of England, and take the whole country for himself. But he knew very well that he had ample work to do in making his own kingdom of Wessex into a strong State. He felt that it was better to rule without disturbance over a part of England than to spend his strength in a never-ending struggle with the Danes.)
- 6. After the victory of Ethandun Alfred had little trouble with his old enemies for many years. Then, in 893, they broke into Wessex once more, and there was fighting till 897. Their leader was now a famous warrior called Hasting. But in 897 Alfred defeated Hasting in two pitched battles, and drove him from England. The remaining four years of his reign were spent in quietness.
- 7. Great as was Alfred in war, he was far greater in peace. He gladly put aside the sword, and turned to work which was for the lasting good of his people. His labours in the calm time which followed 878 may be divided into three classes.
- 8. First, with regard to the laws of the country. Alfred collected the old laws and arranged them in proper order, and saw that everyone obeyed them.

He also made new laws when he saw they were needed. He took care that the courts of justice were properly held, and that every man had his rights, and that wrong-doers were punished.

- 9. Some writers say that trial by jury was first introduced by Alfred, but this is not very clear. It is, however, quite possible that he used some arrangement in his courts of law which was the beginning of our system as we have it to-day, where twelve men are picked to say whether a prisoner is guilty or not guilty.
- 10. Second, with regard to military matters. Alfred saw that to meet the Danes properly they must not be allowed to come and go as they liked on the sea. So he built a fleet of vessels twice as large as those of the Danes, and trained his sailors so skilfully that they were more than a match for the sea-rovers. This was the beginning of the British Navy, the navy which now has ships on every sea, and flies the Union Jack in every corner of the world.
- 11. He also arranged the army—the 'fyrd,' as it was called—in two divisions, so that one half was always ready to go out and fight, while the other half was at home working in the fields. We must remember, of course, that the army in that day was

not like ours, which is composed of men who have nothing to do but be ready for war.

12. Every man was then a soldier when the need arose. In every house, spear and shield and sword hung on the wall, and the farmer took them down and became a soldier on the spot, if there were a sound of the coming of the Northmen. By means of the fleet and the ever-ready army Alfred enjoyed peace, for the Danes knew there was no chance of catching the West Saxons off their guard.

NOTES.

Treaty of Wedmore. The part of the land taken by the Danes under this treaty was afterwards known as the Danelagh (Dane-law), because the law of the Danes was observed in it.

Pitched battle, a fight where each side puts out its utmost strength, and nothing is gained by surprise or stratagem, but the victory is won by downright combat.

III. Alfred's Work for his People.

1. But Alfred's greatest services to his country lay in the third class of his labours, those which were aimed at uplifting the minds of his subjects and making them wiser and better people. This was Alfred's own favourite work, and he toiled at it without ceasing. In Winchester, his capital, he had a great school, where the sons of his nobles were educated. Here he himself taught, and to this school he invited learned men from abroad to instruct his subjects.

- 2. There was great need for this kind of work. The inroads of the Danes had done much mischief to learning. Before the Northmen came, the northern and eastern parts of the country were dotted with monasteries, religious houses where monks and priests lived.
- 3. These monasteries were the schools of that day. In them men taught scholars who came from all parts to gather knowledge; and in every monastery a library was found. In this library the monks made copies of books, writing most beautifully upon parchment. Some of the letters, particularly the first letter in a chapter, called the initial letter, were painted with the brightest colours, and the finished books were finely bound.
- 4. The Danes, being heathens, were most hostile to these monasteries. They burned them to the ground, slew the monks, destroyed the books, gutted the churches, and scattered the scholars. Alfred himself says sadly: 'So clean was learning gone out of the land that very few this side the Humber could understand the meaning of their own Latin service-books or translate aught out of Latin into English.'
- 5. To better this state of affairs was the task nearest Alfred's heart, and he worked himself and

encouraged others to work with him. He built monasteries, restored churches, set up schools, and himself wrote books that his people might read in their own tongue. He encouraged, above all, the writing of history, and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the earliest history in our language, was begun in



KING ALFRED'S JEWEL.

- his reign. It is said that he himself wrote the chapters which tell of the wars with the Danes.
- 6. He sent out men to explore the Northern seas, one seacaptain going round the north of Norway and reaching the White Sea, another making his way into the Baltic He sent one of his Bishops to Jerusalem, and another even as far as India, whence he returned with jewels, spices, and rare things of the East.
- 7. Alfred paid great attention to rebuilding the towns which had been destroyed by the Danes. He strongly fortified London, so that the Thames no longer offered the Northmen a road into the heart of Wessex.
 - 8. And all these great labours were performed in

the midst of pain and illness. For Alfred suffered from a sickness which could not be cured. But he did not allow this to interfere with his work. He wrote and taught, and made laws, and did all he could for his people without a thought of himself. It is no wonder that his subjects loved him, and called him 'England's Darling.'

9. He died at the age of fifty-two. He has been dead a thousand years, but he is not forgotten. To this day the English people are fond and proud of his name, for they never forget that he used his position as King, not for his own ease and comfort, but for the welfare of his people, which he put before everything.

NOTES

Monasteries, houses where monks live. Nuns live in nunneries or convents.

Parehment is prepared from the skins of animals, very often from those of sheep. It is far more durable than paper, and books of parchment written at the date now being considered are in existence to-day.

Heathen comes from the word 'heath,' a dweller on a heath natur-

ally remaining ignorant and backward long after a dweller in a town had learned much. Thus, the latter described an untaught man as no better than a heath-dweller, a heathen.

Gutted, emptied them, carrying off all that was worth stealing.

Explore, search out.

Fortify, to make strong by building walls about a place.

DUNSTAN.

The Famous Monk.

1. Dunstan was a great Churchman who lived in the tenth century. He was born at Glastonbury, in Somersetshire, in 925. At Glastonbury there was a famous abbey, and young Dunstan eagerly learned everything that the monks could teach him. As a young man he was noted not only for his knowledge of the books of the time, but also for his skill in playing upon the harp, in painting, in carving, and in the working of metals.



DUNSTAN.

- 2. It may seem strange to us that such things as metal working should be reckoned as part of the education of a learned man; but in Dunstan's day the monasteries were the homes of arts and crafts as well as of book-learning.
- 3. The people of that time were very

rude and ignorant. They knew nothing of reading and writing, nothing of matters outside their simple round of daily life—the tilling of the ground, the hunting of wild beasts, the occasional call to war.

4. Only in the monasteries could be found men

who followed what we call professions to-day; there were the artist, the writer, the doctor, the teacher. And why were such men to be found only in the religious houses? The answer is simple. Because in no other place could men enjoy the peace and quietude necessary for such work.

- 5. Out in the everyday world times were hard and rough. The rich man cared for nothing but hunting and fighting; the poor man, much as now, found his time and thoughts filled with the daily task needful for the purchase of daily bread. But in the monasteries, under the powerful protection of the Church, men could devote their attention to something beyond the mere tilling of the soil or the rude joys of fighting, hunting, and feasting.
- 6. In time Dunstan became Abbot of Glastonbury, the ruler of the place where he had grown up; and now he was as eager to teach as he had been to learn. He set up a great school which became famous through all England, so that scholars came from all parts to study under him and his teachers.
- 7. He was very anxious that the priests throughout the country should help the people to become wiser and better. He saw that much could be done by teaching people useful trades as well as by

preaching to them. He pressed this upon the clergy, and his favourite saying was, 'Let every priest learn a craft.'

- 8. He became Archbishop of Canterbury, and took a great share in helping King Edgar to govern England. Edgar and Dunstan worked hand-in-hand for the good of the country, and the land had great peace in their day. They took care that all men obeyed the law, they formed a strong body of soldiers to keep order—the police of their time—and they kept up a strong navy.
- 9. When Dunstan became Archbishop he found many of the clergy ignorant and unfit for their duties. He strove to improve them, and whenever a post became empty he took care that it was filled by a pious and learned man. He and his friends founded forty new abbeys, each with a good school attached to it.
- as to his successor. Edgar left two sons—Edward aged twelve, and Ethelred aged ten. Dunstan was in favour of Edward, and the boy was crowned. His reign was very short. One day Edward was out hunting near Corfe Castle, in Dorsetshire. In this castle lived his stepmother Elfrida and his half-brother Ethelred. The boy King was tired and

thirsty. He called at the castle and asked for something to drink. Elfrida brought him out a cup of wine. But while Edward was drinking it one of his stepmother's servants crept up to him and stabbed him in the back.



CORFE CASTLE.

11. He was not killed at once, but set spurs to his horse and galloped away. Soon he became weak from loss of blood, reeled from the saddle, and fell to the ground. The poor boy's foot became entangled

in the stirrup, and he was dragged along by his horse till he was dead. This sad death earned him the name of Edward the Martyr.

- 12. His half-brother Ethelred, a boy of ten, now came to the throne; and as Dunstan had been a supporter of Edward, the Archbishop's power was not so great as it had been. He was quite content it should be so. He devoted himself to the duties of his office, and gladly took up once more the pen and brush of earlier days.
- 13. Thus he spent the last ten years of his life, dying in 988. Dunstan is notable because he was the first of a long line of Churchmen who were also statesmen, men who not only ruled over the Church and the clergy, but who helped to govern the country.

NOTES.

Abbey, a religious house ruled over by an Abbot.

Tilling, farming.

Edgar was King from 959 to 975

Successor, he who comes after anyone.

Martyr, one who is put to death unjustly.

Statesman, a man who helps to rule the State.

HAROLD, THE LAST OF THE SAXONS.

I. Harold and William.

1. Harold, the last Saxon King of England, was not of royal blood. But when Edward the Con-

fessor, the last of the line of Alfred, died, Harold was so much abler and braver than any King that could be chosen from the Royal Family that the Witenagemote, the Saxon Parliament, set him upon the throne without delay. He was elected upon the very day that Edward the Confessor died. This was in 1066.

2. In doing this, the Witenagemote, the Meeting of Wise Men, was only acting upon the old English custom of electing the best man to take the highest place. It is true that for many years the King had always been selected from the Royal Family; but in passing over the relations of Edward — for he had no children of



his own — and selecting the great Earl Harold, the Wise Men were acting for the good of the country.

3. Harold had been the chief man in England even before he death of Edward the Confessor. The latter was a gentle, quiet man of great piety, who spent his time chiefly in building churches and collecting relics, leaving the country to be governed by a number of powerful Earls, who each ruled over a wide division of England.

- 4. Among these Earls Harold was the greatest. He commanded the army of England as though he were the King himself. In 1063 he made a great campaign against the Welsh, who had been giving trouble, and after winning several victories he reduced them to quietness. The whole work of government was in his hands; and so, when Edward died and Harold became King, it was merely the passing of the crown from the man who had been King in name to the man who had been King in fact.
- 5. And now a strong King was needed in England, if the Saxons were to hold their own. For the election of Harold aroused the fierce anger of William, Duke of Normandy, a relation of Edward the Confessor. William declared that Edward had promised the crown to him, and he also said that Harold had taken a most solemn oath to help him to become King of England.
- 6. Now, whether Edward had promised the crown to William or no we do not know for certain, nor does it matter in the least. For according to Old

English law such a promise was worthless unless the Witan agreed to it also; and it is certain that the Wise Men had given William no promise. As to the oath, we only hear of that from William's friends, and we know how dangerous it is to accept

a tale when we have heard but one side of the story.

7. At any rate, here in England in 1066 was Harold, King of England. And over in Normandy, on the other side of the English Channel, was William in a most furious rage and setting at once about gathering an army to drive Harold from the throne. Nor was William to be lightly considered



COSTUME OF NORMAN NOBLE.

as an enemy. He was a man of iron will, patient, crafty, and he knew no mercy to those who withstood him. 'Beyond measure stark was he to those who opposed him,' says the old chronicler.

8. He had grown up in a hard school. His father died when he was a mere boy, and the Norman Barons had attempted to take advantage of so

young a ruler. He had to fight his way all his life; and, as he grew to manhood, he fought in so terrible a fashion that he put all his enemies under his feet, and ruled Normandy with an iron hand.

9. He was of great stature and strength, and loved to fight in the foremost rank of his army. 'No knight under heaven was William's fear; no man could bend his bow.' And it was this terrible enemy who was stirred up against Harold.

NOTES.

Relics, the remains of saints or holy things, such as a bone of a martyr, a piece of the Cross, and Stark, stern.

Campaign, a military expedition.
Oath, a solemn promise.
Stark, stern. such-like.

Stature, height.

II. The Danes and the Normans.

- 1. The Normans were not unknown in England. Indeed, we may say that they were very well known and very heartily disliked. Edward the Confessor himself spent his early life in Normandy, and was brought up at the Duke's Court. Thus he spoke, thought, and felt like a Norman. When he came to England he brought a host of his Norman friends with him, and Norman-French, the language of Normandy, became the language of his Court.
 - 2. The English did not like this, especially when

they saw the Norman Bishops and Norman knights taking the chief places in the Church and the government. There was much quarrelling between the foreign party, who were supported by the influence of the King, and the English party, who were led by Earl Godwin, Harold's father.

- 3. Harold, of course, had always sided with his father against the Normans; and when Godwin died, Harold became the leader of the English party. We see, then, that the quarrel between himself and the Normans was an old one, and went back to the time before he came to be King. William of Normandy had been to England on a visit to Edward the Confessor, and on this visit he had spied out the nakedness of the land, and, seeing Edward had no children, had resolved on capturing the throne for himself. It was at the time of this visit, as he afterwards declared, that Edward had promised him the crown.
- 4. It is said that William was hunting when he received the news that Harold had been chosen King by the Witan, and his rage was such that he was speechless. He set about his preparations without delay. He gathered men and borrowed money. Great numbers of knights and men-at-arms flocked to his standard. Some came drawn by

the wish to fight under the banner of the greatest captain of the age; some were attracted by the prospects he held out of plunder and land to be gained oversea.

- 5. He built ships and hired seamen. He sent to Rome to gain the Pope's blessing upon his undertaking; and the Pope, who had a quarrel with the English Church, blessed him and sent him a sacred banner. For his part, Harold knew that the matter must be settled by the sword, and he gathered his fighting men and waited for William to make a move.
- 6. But while he was waiting for the Norman Duke, terrible news reached the English King. A great army of Northmen led by Harold Hardrada, King of Norway, and by Tostig, the King of England's own brother, had sailed up the Humber and landed, aiming at the conquest of England. Thus was Harold threatened on two sides at once.
- 7. What brought his own brother leading an army of enemies to England? Tostig had been Earl of Northumbria, but his rule had been so harsh, and he had made himself so hated, that his people rose against him, and he was banished from the country. He had now returned to win back his earldom, having obtained the help of Harold Hardrada and a mighty host of Danes.

- 8. Harold was watching the South Coast, where he looked for danger. But no sooner did he hear of the invasion of the Northmen than he set off with his troops, and marched night and day along the Roman road which runs from London to York. So swiftly did he move that he caught the Danish army by surprise, and on the 25th of September there was a furious battle at Stamford Bridge, on the Derwent The fight was long and dreadful, but in the end the great battle-axes of the Saxons beat down all resistance, and Harold won a complete victory. The Danes were destroyed almost to a man; both Tostig and Harold Hardrada were among the slain.
- 9. While the English were feasting after the battle and rejoicing in their victory, a messenger came full speed to announce the arrival of the Normans. Duke William had crossed the Channel, and his troops had landed on English soil at Pevensey, in Sussex.
- 10. Harold lost no time. Away he marched back to the South, sending messages on every hand for the fighting men of England to join him. Many came, but many more stayed away. Owing to spiritless leaders, few from the north and centre of the country rallied round Harold's Dragon

Standard—a banner on which was painted the Golden Dragon of Wessex—and the need of them was soon to be felt.

NOTES.

Nakedness, etc. There was no one of the Royal Family whom William need fear, to follow Edward the Confessor.

Standard, the banner of the leader which was carried before the army, and was set in their midst in battle.

Harold Hardrada was one of the

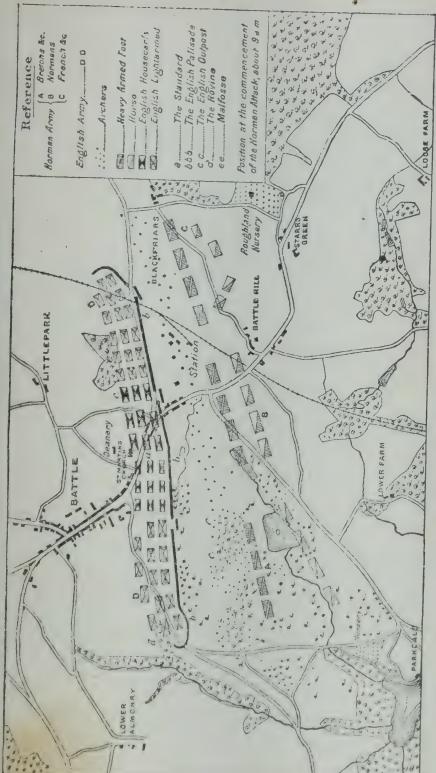
most famous fighting men of the day. He lived a most romantic life, full of wonderful adventures, and, after William, Harold could have had no more terrible enemy.

Wessex. Harold had been Earl of

Wessex.

III. The Battle of Hastings.

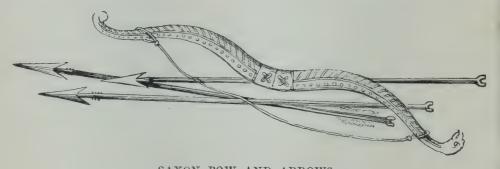
- 1. It was on October 13, 1066, that Saxon and Norman first saw each other. Harold checked his headlong march on the ever-memorable ridge of Senlac, eight miles from Hastings, and saw the Norman host covering the country below.
- 2. He went not a step further into the plain. He knew that his men on foot would then lie open to be charged down by the Norman knights—men clad from head to foot in armour, and riding powerful horses. So he halted on the steep ridge, where horses could not act freely, and made his defences stronger by casting up a bank of earth in which were planted stout poles and stakes to break the rush of the horsemen.
 - 3. Behind the palisade Harold placed his men



PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS.

armed with spears and battle-axes, and bade them on no account break their ranks or go out into the open. Had they obeyed him there would have been a different end to that great and most famous battle.

4. William now led his army to the attack, and a finer army no general could wish to lead. He had a splendid body of knights riding strong war-horses, great numbers of spearmen, and a host of archers. Most of his followers were men whose sole business



SAXON BOW AND ARROWS.

it was to fight, picked and trained soldiers. With Harold it was very different.

5. Of the English, the greater part were farmers and husbandmen who had taken their arms and answered the summons of their King. The only body under Harold's command who could really be called soldiers were the 'hus-carls,' house-carles, House-Men, the personal followers and war-band of the King. But the English had their strong arms, stout hearts, and great battle-axes, and were ready to pit themselves on foot against the Norman horsemen.

- 6. William's plan was to charge with horsemen and spearmen against the barricade, break a gap in it, and send the knights through to ride down the English with horse and lance. The battle was begun by a minstrel named Taillefer. He rode before the Norman army, chanting a famous old war-song, tossing his sword in the air and catching it again by the hilt as it fell. First one Saxon, then another, darted forward to meet him. He slew them both. A third rushed out and cut him down. The battle now became general.
- 7. The Norman archers poured in a close shower of arrows. The English, safe behind their great shields, cared little for the rain of shafts. Next, the Norman knights, a wall of shining steel, dashed up the hill and made a furious attack upon the barricade
- 8. Now the mighty English battle-axes came into play, and they rose and fell, rose and fell, cutting clean through helmet and shield, and doing terrible mischief to William's best troops. Again and again William flung his men against the palisade. On ame the Normans with loud cries of 'God aid us! God aid us!
- 9. 'Holy Cross!' was the English rallying-cry,

and as they shouted they struck with axe and thrust with spear, till after some hours' struggle the Normans were beaten back with dreadful loss. The fiercest battle waged about the Dragon Standard, beside which was planted a banner painted with a figure of a Fighting Man. Beneath these banners stood King Harold himself with two of his brothers, Leofwine and Gyrth, the stout 'hus-carls' around him in a close-packed ring.

- 10. The bravest and the boldest of the Normans charged fiercely to capture the Dragon Standard, but charged in vain. Harold, at the head of his men, fought like a hero. Before the sweeping stroke of his tremendous axe down went horse and rider, crushed at a single blow. Here was the heart of the fray, a fearful hand-to-hand combat, while the Norman-French shouts and the mighty 'Ahoi! Ahoi!' the famous Saxon war-cry, rose and rolled over the field.
- 11. In vain the Normans dashed again and again upon the close-lined ranks of English shields. Shoulder to shoulder the English stood, and could not be shaken. Duke William, fighting in the foremost line, was unhorsed and flung to the ground. The word ran through the Norman lines that he was killed. His followers began to give way.

William leapt to his feet and ran through the ranks, his helmet in his hand, his head bare, and shouting, in a voice of thunder: 'Look, look! I still live, and, by God's help, will yet win the day!'

12. This rallied his men, and he mounted a fresh horse and commanded them to follow him. Straight at the Dragon he dashed, and there was once more a fearful struggle. But at last the English shout of 'Holy Cross! Harold and Holy Cross!' became joyful, as they saw the Normans retreating, beaten back afresh. The Saxon line was still unbroken, but in this last fierce burst of fighting Leofwine and Gyrth, Harold's brothers, had been killed.

NOTES.

Minstrel, a singer. Minstrels were | of the standard of the opposite party held in great esteem in an age of few books, as their songs made men

Fiercest battle, because the capture

was a sure sign of victory. It could not be taken till the best and bravest were slain.

Rallied, encouraged, reassured.

IV. The Fall of Harold.

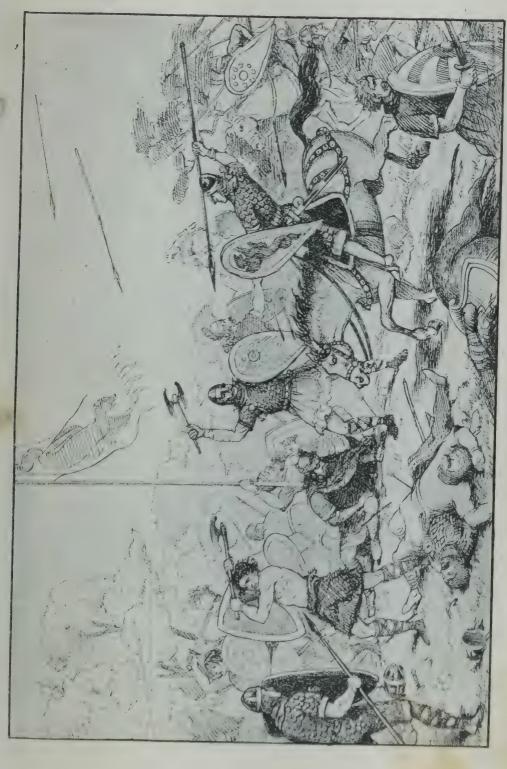
1. William drew off to give his men time to breathe, and also to beat about for some plan to break the English ranks. Shatter them by force he could not, that he saw plainly, and, being a great captain, he knew that what the hand could not bring about perhaps the wit might. So he placed a strong body of knights in ambush, and sent a

great force of spearmen to attack the English. These spearmen had orders to retreat as if in flight, and then face about at an agreed signal. They did so.

2. The English nearest to the spearmen were deceived. They thought that it was a real flight, and that nothing remained for them to do but pursue and punish the fleeing enemy. Unmindful



of Harold's strict order, they broke their ranks, and poured down from their hill-fortress to take vengeance upon the invaders. But, to their surprise, they saw the flying Normans suddenly face about, and the earth trembled as the great warhorses thundered down upon them.



- 3. Too late they saw their error. Out in the open they were ridden down, and slain upon the spot, and into the breach they had left poured the Norman soldiery. This was about the middle of the afternoon.
- 4. Still the battle was far from over. The unconquerable 'hus-carls' still stood firm about the King, the Dragon Standard still flapped in the breeze, ringed about by English hearts, and Harold still swung his great double-headed axe, now dark and wet with blood. Charge after charge was made upon this stubborn ring, but still it stood unbroken, and still around it was piled higher and higher the heap of Norman dead.
- 5. Evening drew on and William became anxious He had no place of retreat, and a single defeat meant ruin to him. He must break down that terrible defence or lose all. A drawn battle was as good as a victory to Harold. He could gather fresh strength from the country about. William could not.
- 6. The Norman captain thought of a fresh plan. The arrows of his archers had been doing little mischief, for they struck upon the breastworks or upon the shields of the English. But William now brought up a body and bade them shoot into the air,

in order, as he said, 'that the arrows might fall like bolts from heaven.'

- 7. One of these arrows decided the battle. It pierced the eye of Harold, and the fall of the King settled the issue of the fight. It did not end the struggle. It is true that parts of the English defence weakened when Harold was no longer there to inspirit them to fresh efforts. But the noble 'hus-carls' still fought it out as grimly and sternly as ever. Refusing to surrender, disdaining to fly, they stood in an ever-thinning ring about the Standard.
 - 8. Nor was the Battle of Hastings ended till the last of those mighty warriors was slain. The Golden Dragon and the Fighting Man were torn from their places by the Norman victors, and the sacred banner of the Pope set up in their stead. The last English King lay buried beneath a heap of faithful dead, and the Norman Duke, now William the Conqueror, was master of the blood-stained ridge.

NOTES.

In ambush, in hiding. Breach, gap, opening.

Disdain, to look upon with contempt.

HEREWARD THE WAKE.

- I. Hereward comes Home.
- 1. The Battle of Hastings made William the Norman, now William the Conqueror, master of the south-east of England. He marched to London, and was there crowned. But it took years of hard fighting to subdue the whole country.
- 2. The last part of England to be conquered was the Fen district in the East, the great swampy flats around the Wash. Here the Saxons made their last stand against the Normans, and they were led by a famous hero called Hereward the Wake. This name he won because he was so watchful and wary that no one could take him off his guard.
- 3. Hereward's home was at Bourne in Lincolnshire. As a young man he was so wild and quarrelsome that he was made an outlaw and driven from his native country. Hereward went out into the world gladly. He burned to become a viking, a sea-rover, as his forefathers had been before him. So, wherever hard knocks were going, there was Hereward the Wake to be found. He grew into so famous and mighty a warrior that minstrels sang songs of him as one of the great champions of the age.

- 4. He was a Broad when the Normans came to England, but when he heard that his father Ares dead, and that his old home had been given to a Norman stranger, he returned to show them that they had still to reckon with Hereward the Wake:
- 5. He rode up to Bourne at nightfall. Dreadful news awaited him there. He found that the Norman spoilers had but lately seized the house of Bourne, and had found in it his mother and brother, the latter a boy of sixteen. This boy had been slain when trying to defend his mother from the insults of the Norman soldiery, and his head, struck from his body, had been set upon the gable of the manor house.
- 6. We can imagine the grim and terrible look that came upon the face of the great warrior when he heard this news. He went at once up to the house with but one follower, and found the new-comers making merry in the hall. They were feasting and drinking wine, never dreaming of danger, laughing and talking, and passing rude, coarse jokes upon the English.
- 7. All this Hereward saw and heard through one of the windows. There were fifteen Normans in the hall, but he cared nothing for that; he was not in temper to stay and count the odds. He bade his

man keep the door, and then he burst in upon the revellers shouting his mighty war-cry of 'A Wake! a Wake!'

- 8. The startled Normans sprang to their feet and seized whatever weapons lay to hand. But Hereward's dreadful sword-play made short work of them. He raised his war-shout, and with every cry he struck, and with every blow his enemies were one the less. The few who ran for the door, hoping to escape, were slain by Hereward's man posted there. At nightfall one head had been on the gable, that of the Saxon boy; next morning fifteen Norman heads had taken its place.
- 9. When the news of this deed went abroad, and people knew that Hereward had come home again, their hearts revived, and a fresh resolve was made to strike a blow for freedom. The Fenmen gathered about the hero, and a camp was made in the Isle of Ely.
- 10. The strength of the isle lay in the fact that it was a piece of firm land surrounded on every side by deep marshes, through which no stranger could make his way. Only the Fenmen knew the narrow paths which threaded the wilderness of pools, rivers, and bogs, and in the heart of these they formed a camp of refuge to resist the Norman.

and his men became the terror of the Norman Barons who held houses and land in that part of the country. They would slip out in boats at night and row far along the rivers or by the marsh lakes till they came to a place held by their enemies. Upon this they would make an onslaught, driving the strangers headlong, carrying off all the spoil, and firing the house when they retreated. Very often the real owner of the place was one of Hereward's band, a dispossessed Saxon, and he would say as he set the torch to the building, 'May not a man do as he likes with his own?'

NOTES.

Subdue, conquer.
Outlaw, a man out of the protection of the law. Anyone could slay him.

Viking, vic-ing, one who frequented vics, the harbours where the searovers kept their ships.

Revellers, merry-makers.

II. The Normans are beaten.

- 1. At last William himself was forced to come, and he marched against Hereward with a strong army. It was easy to get within a few miles of the camp of refuge, but how to get into the camp itself was a thing which puzzled even William, that most famous general.
- 2. He went all about it on horseback or in a boat, and found that he must in some fashion or other get

his men across half a mile of soft black mud. That was the narrowest crossing-place between dry land and dry land, and William set about the work.

- 3. First he thought of building a bridge set on piles. So his men cut down trees and began to drive them into the mud to make a foundation. But the mud was too soft and deep. The longest trees failed to reach firm ground, and sank, and were lost.
- 4. Then William planned a floating-bridge of beams laid upon skins blown full of air, so that they would not sink in the slime. Day by day the bridge grew, until it was near the firm ground, where Hereward and his men had built a rampart ready to meet the threatened attack.
- 5. As soon as the bridge was ready, the Normans marched across it. Line upon line of steel-clad men, by hundreds and by thousands they poured over the narrow, wooden causeway set across the bog. Every man was eager to get into the Isle of Ely, for the most wonderful stories had been told of the treasures gathered there, and all dreamed of nothing but rich plunder.
- 6. Soon the bridge was filled from end to end, and the leading troops engaged in hand-to-hand battle with Hereward and his men, who fought like heroes to hold their isle against the foe.

- 7. But the battle did not last long. A terrible disaster overwhelmed the Norman army. The great weight of the close-packed lines of armour-clad soldiery put an enormous strain upon the bridge, a strain to which it was not equal. It sank a little, and the Normans found their feet in the muddy water. Then a terrible scene of panic followed. Some tried to force their way to the island, but the Saxons beat them back. Some tried to force their way to the shore, but the press was too great. Whoever fell from the bridge was dragged down into the mud at once by the weight of his armour and could not rise.
- 8. Suddenly the whole bridge gave way and rolled on its side, pitching every man on it into the deep, soft slime. For a few moments there was seen the dreadful sight of a long line of struggling figures fighting to make their footing good, but all in vain. The mud swallowed them up to the last man.
- 9. After this terrible defeat William made no resh attack for awhile. He contented himself with etting soldiers all about the isle, so that Hereward and his men were closely shut up. But they had o lack of food. Deer and cattle, sheep and goats, ed on the meadows of the isle; fish swarmed in the ountless pools and rivers; wild-fowl were to be had

by the thousand for the catching; and boats, threading hidden waterways, brought them wine and corn.

NOTES.

Disaster, misfortune.

Panic, fear, fright.

III. Hereward goes among his Enemies.

- 1. The men in the isle soon began to wonder what William was going to do next. 'I will go out and see,' said Hereward; and out he went.
- 2. For long after Hereward's day there was no story the English loved better than this, the story of how Hereward went among his enemies, and, under William's very nose, picked up all he wished to know. Hereward had a mare, a rough, poorlooking creature, but of wonderful swiftness. He put on poor clothes, mounted this mare, and rode off to spy upon his foes.
- 3. On his way to the place where William held his Court, Hereward met a potter. He saw a chance of making his disguise better, so he bought the man's pots and exchanged coats with him. Then he rode up to the King's Court, looking a potter to the very life, and calling out, 'Pots! pots! Good pots and pans!'
- 4. As it happened, the King's cook wanted some earthenware, and while he was looking at the



HEREWARD, DISGUISED AS A POTTER, IN WILLIAM'S KITCHEN.

crockery, a man came by who stopped and stared hard at the potter.

'This fellow is wonderfully like Hereward,' he said.

- 5. A crowd at once gathered about them, and the potter was led into the hall. Here he was questioned by some of William's chief men, but he would only understand and answer in broad Saxon, and he made his replies so simple and foolish, and looked so mean and clownish, that no one could believe this was the mighty Hereward the Wake. So he was soon sent back to the kitchen.
- 6. Now, there was nothing the scullions and grooms of a Norman household loved so much as to torment and insult a Saxon. They began at once to play tricks with Hereward, and for awhile he endured them, because he heard things freely spoken of which he wished to learn. He gathered that a fresh attack was about to be made, and how, and when, and where.
- 7. At last one man put upon him an insult which roused Hereward's temper. He struck out, and the man dropped senseless. Up leapt the other servants and rushed upon Hereward with knives and flesh-hooks.
 - 8. But Hereward seized a great spit, and laid

about him with such fury that he drove all assailants before him. Next, soldiers poured in, and by these Hereward was overpowered and carried before the King.

- 9. The King looked at him keenly, and saw this was no common man. He spoke to him in French, and Hereward pretended not to understand. William was not yet satisfied, and he bade him hold up his head and show his throat, also roll up his sleeve and bare his arm. Now, Hereward was tattooed on throat and arm, as were all great English fighting men of that day, and just as some of our sailors are now.
- 10. 'These are not the marks of a common man,' said William, who understood such matters. 'I am going hunting now, and can stay no longer. Keep him safely till I get back. I would he were Hereward, as some say he is, for I wish that man to be ny man.' William went to hunt, and Hereward was carried to prison.
- 11. But suddenly, as they were fastening irons in him, he put out all his tremendous strength and burst free. He ran with all his might to the lace where he had left his mare, and leapt upon er back. Now he was safe, for no one could catch im, and away he galloped home.

- 12. William soon made a fresh attack, but failed once more. In the end he got into the island by treachery. Some monks showed him a secret path, and the stronghold of the Saxons was seized.
- 13. It is said that Hereward had promised to become King William's man if the Conqueror were once master of all England. And now William was master indeed. The last Saxon resistance was broken, and Hereward gave up the struggle and submitted.
- 14. Another story tells us of the end of Hereward. The Norman knights hated him bitterly, both for the harm he had done them and for the favour shown to him by the King. One day a whole band of them attacked him by surprise. But Hereward fought with all his wonderful skill and strength till he was ringed about by dead But they were too many for him. Covered with wounds, he fell in their midst, and was pierced by lances.
- 15. Thus died Hereward the Wake, the last man who withstood William the Norman, and who thereby gained the name of the Last of the English.

NOTES.

Flesh-hooks, great hooks, used for dragging meat out of a boiling caldron.

Spit. Often a spit was four or five feet long, in order to hold large joints of meat.

French. The Normans knew in English.

Tattooed, marks worked in the skin.

Accession No;

THOMAS BECKET.

I Thomas and King Henry:

1. Thomas Becket, or Thomas à Becket, as he is sometimes called, was born in London in 1118. He was the son of a Norman merchant who settled in

England and rose to be Portreeve of London, the position which is now held by the Lord Mayor.

2. There is a story that his mother was a Saracen woman, but it is not true. She also was a Norman; her name was Maud, and she was a very good, pious woman.



It was her custom every year on her son's birthday to give the boy's weight of goods to the poor.

3. Thomas received a very good education: he tudied at home and in Paris, where there were amous schools. He came under the notice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was so pleased with

his ability that he made the clever youth a member of his household.

- 4. It was not long before the King came to know Becket. The King at that time was Henry the Second, the first of the Plantagenet Kings. Henry had come to the throne at a time when the kingdom was in great disorder: he put out all his strength to bring the land under the reign of law. He was a man of great bravery and wisdom, though at times hasty and passionate. He was a first-rate man of business and a very hard worker.
- 5. As soon as King Henry became acquainted with Becket, he saw that here was the very man he wanted to help him in his work of reducing England to a state of peace and order. They soon became great friends and fellow-workers. Henry made Becket Chancellor of England. The Chancellor was the head of the King's clerks or secretaries. He had charge of all important papers. He also kept the King's seal, which was used for signing and sealing letters and State papers. It was a post of such importance that the Chancellor was the chief man in the country after the King.
- 6. In this position Becket worked heart and soul for Henry. We have a striking picture of the friendship which existed between the King and his

great subject from the pen of William Fitz-Stephen, Becket's friend, who was with him to the last hour of his life, and who says this:

- When business was over, they would play together like boys of an age; in hall, in church, they sat together, or together they rode out. . . . Some times the King rode on horseback into the hall where the Chancellor sat at meat; sometimes he came bow in hand returning from hunting, or on his way to the chase. Sometimes he would drink and depart when he had seen the Chancellor; sometimes, jumping over the table, he would sit down and eat with him. Never in Christian times were two men more of a mind or better friends.'
- 7. Another story of Henry and Becket tells us that they were once riding together, when a poor beggar asked alms of them. Becket was wearing a rich cloak, and Henry caught hold of it and tried to pull it from his shoulders. The Chancellor resisted, and did his best to keep his cloak. But after a merry tussle Henry managed to tear it away, when, laughing, he tossed it to the poor beggar.
- 8. As Chancellor, Becket lived in great state. He lwelt in a splendid palace, was served by hundreds of servants, wore the richest and most costly gar-

ments, and, in short, no King could have lived in greater pomp and magnificence.

9. After a few years Henry made Becket Archbishop of Canterbury, and this led to a great change of feeling between the two. To understand how this change came about, we must consider what Henry had hoped for when he put his friend and servant into this position, the highest which the English Church can offer.

NOTES.

Saracens, a Turkish people who | badge of their house, which was a seized the Holy Land, and against whom the Crusaders marched.

Plantagenet, so called from the

sprig of broom; in Latin, Planta genista.

Alms, charity.

II. The Constitutions of Clarendon.

- 1 In Henry's time the Church was very powerful. Henry thought it was too powerful, and he determined to lessen the authority of the clergy. His chief quarrel with them was on the following point.
- 2. The Church claimed that all wrong-doers who were clergymen or were in any way connected with the Church should be tried only in Church courts, presided over by Bishops. Henry said that all men, whether clergy or not, should be tried in the King's court, by the King's judges.
 - 3. The difference between these courts was very

great. A murderer brought before the King's court could be sentenced to death; but by the laws of the Church a Bishop was not allowed to pass a sentence of death, so that in Church courts a wicked man escaped with a much lighter punishment. Therefore it came to this: There were two laws in Eng-

land—a light law for the clergy, and a heavy law for

other people.

4. Henry was determined to put an end to such a state of affairs, and he thought that no one would be more likely to help him than Thomas Becket. But no sooner was Becket made Archbishop of Canterbury than his whole life underwent a great change

5. He put aside all the splendour of his former days.

BECKET'S MITRE.

He wore poor, common clothes, and these day and night without changing them. He lived upon bread and water. Every day he washed the feet of thirteen beggars in memory of Christ washing the feet of the Apostles. More than that: he was not willing to give up the least part

of the authority of the Church, so that ill feeling arose between him and his master.

- 6. At last Henry lost his temper altogether, and resolved that all evil-doers, whether clergy or not, should be tried by King's judges and by the common law of the land. The King's anger was aroused by a very bad case which came before a Bishop's court. A clerk had committed a dreadful crime, a crime which was worthy of death, but he escaped with the light punishment of being unfrocked—that is, being turned out of the Church.
- 7. We must bear in mind that the clergy of those days did not answer exactly to the body of men we call the clergy now. Many of them were not priests at all. There were at that time seven orders of clergy, and, as admittance to the lowest orders was very easy, almost every person in England who could read and write belonged to one order or another.
- 8. Great numbers of people entered merely to secure the protection which the Church could bestow, and, naturally, among such crowds of clerks, as they were called, there were evil-disposed persons who took advantage of their position, knowing that whatever wickedness they did their necks were safe.
- 9. But now Henry was roused, and a great Council was called at Clarendon in Wiltshire. Here a set

of laws was proposed, called the Constitutions of Clarendon. The chief of these laws settled that clergy who broke the common law should be tried by the common law. But Becket would not agree. All his friends urged him to yield to the King. Becket would not give way.

- 10. Henry's anger against his old friend and follower was very bitter, and in a few months Becket was banished from the kingdom. He went to France, and was away from England for six years, but from abroad he sent an order to his clergy that they were not to obey the Constitutions of Clarendon.
- 11. Henry was so filled with fury against Becket that he tried to wound him in every manner he could think of. He threatened to punish all those who showed Becket any kindness, and he drove out of England all Becket's friends and relatives, to the number of 400 people.
- 12. Henry also greatly offended Becket in another matter. It was the custom of the Kings of France to crown the eldest son, the heir to the throne, in his father's lifetime. This made it an easier matter for the heir to succeed on the King's death. He had already been recognised as the future ruler, and on his father's death he took the vacant place without question.

13. Henry thought this was a good plan, and he followed it himself. He caused his eldest son to be crowned and acknowledged as the next King. But it was the right of the Archbishop of Canterbury to, place the crown upon the Prince's head, and when Thomas Becket heard that this had been performed by the Archbishop of York, a bitter enemy of his, his anger was very great.

III. The Murder of Becket.

- 1. At last some friends made peace between the King and Becket, and they met in France in the year 1170. Thomas Becket at once returned to his cathedral and his work in Canterbury. The people of Kent, who loved the Archbishop and thought him a saint for his piety and goodness, came out in their thousands to welcome him back. 'Now,' they cried, 'we shall have someone to protect us against the Barons who treat us ill.'
- 2. But all was not peace yet. Becket found that much of his property had been seized, and the holders were not willing to give it up. There was the matter of the crowning of the young Prince to be settled too, and he cast out of the Church the Archbishop of York and the other Bishops who refused to obey him. The Bishops, with Roger of York at

their head, hastened over the sea to complain to the King, who had remained in Normandy.

- 3. Henry gave way to one of the terrible fits of rage which sometimes mastered him. 'What sluggards and cowards do I nourish at my Court,' cried the hasty King, 'when there is not one who will rid me of this base priest!'
- 4. There were men who heard, and who were only too glad of the excuse to attack Becket which the King's wild words gave them. Becket was no friend to the Barons. Often he had stood between them and the poor they had wished to rob and ill-treat. Here was a chance to wipe out old scores. Four of Henry's knights—Reginald Fitz-Urse, William of Tracy, Hugh of Morville, and Richard the Breton—slipped away from the Court at once, and crossed to England.
- 5. On a cold December day they arrived at Canterbury. Already the dusk was beginning to fall, and Becket, in his full robes, had gone into the cathedral for the evening service. A loud noise was heard, and the monks in the cathedral shut the great doors in alarm. But Thomas Becket ordered that they should be opened again; for some poor people, frightened by the fierce soldiers who had attacked the church, were crying for a place of refuge.

- 6. When the doors were opened, in rushed the four knights, clad in complete armour. One cried, 'Where is Thomas Becket, that foul traitor?' Another shouted, 'Where is the Archbishop?' 'Here am I,' replied Becket; 'no traitor, but priest of God.'
- 7. The knights at once demanded that he should absolve the Bishops and leave England. He refused, saying he could not do the first and would not do the second. They broke out into angry reproaches, and threatened to slay him. By this all had fled from Becket save three faithful friends—William Fitz-Stephen, his chaplain, and two other monks.
- 8. The Archbishop faced the drawn swords of the knights with perfect calmness. 'I am ready to die for God and the Church,' was his only reply to their furious threats. The knights suddenly seized him, and tried to drag him outside the church. Even they feared to slay him before the altar. But Becket resisted. He was a strong man, and the struggle excited the murderers to fury.
- 9. One of them, mad with passion, struck at him and wounded a faithful monk named Grim. But the others, shouting 'Strike! strike!' struck to better purpose, and the great Archbishop fell bleeding to the pavement. As he lay, he commended his soul to God, and then one last fierce sword-cut

upon his head ended his life, and Thomas Becket lay dead in his own cathedral.



THE DEATH OF BECKET. (From an old manuscript.)

10. When Henry heard of this cruel and dreadful murder, he showed the deepest grief. He declared that he had never meant the hasty words in earnest;

that it was but an angry speech, forgotten as soon as uttered. He went three days without food or drink; he shut himself up for weeks and refused to see anyone.

- 11. Later he went to Canterbury to do penance. Bare-footed, and dressed in mean clothes, he walked to the cathedral. Kneeling before the tomb, he was scourged by eighty priests in turn: the Bishops gave him five strokes each, the monks three. Then he remained by the tomb the whole night, fasting.
- 12. As for the horror felt by the people in general, it would be impossible to describe it. They had looked upon Becket as a saint before his death; they now looked upon him as a martyr. It was said that miracles were worked at his tomb. From all parts of England pilgrims came to it to pray.
- 13. As for Henry's hopes of breaking the power of the Church, the murder of Becket put an end to them at once. Thomas Becket, in giving his life, had won a complete victory for his side. No one would listen to a word against the cause for which Becket had become a martyr. So Henry's violent temper brought all his efforts to nothing for the time.

NOTES.

Traitor, one who betrays a trust. Absolve, clear, set free.

Penance, a punishment endured in hopes of wiping out a fault.

Scourged, beaten.

STEPHEN LANGTON.

I. The Wicked King.

- 1. Stephen Langton was a great Churchman who lived in the reign of King John (1199-1216). We first hear of him in connection with the highest office a Churchman can hold in England, the arch-bishopric of Canterbury.
- 2. In 1205 Archbishop Hubert died, and John chose in his place the Bishop of Norwich But the Pope, who had then much to say in the affairs of England, chose a wise and good man named Stephen Langton. John became very angry, and refused to allow Langton to hold the office. A long struggle between John and the Pope followed, but in the end the Pope won.
- 3. A worse King than John never sat upon the throne of England. He was false and cruel, at once a tyrant and a coward. His conduct was such that at last his people turned upon him. They would no longer bear the heavy taxes he exacted from them; they would no longer endure the cruelties he practised upon those he disliked.
- 4. All classes, high and low, were united against the tyrant. In 1214 a strong league was formed to orce King John to do right, and pay respect to old

English laws and customs. At the head stood Stephen Langton, the Archbishop. A great meeting of the Barons was held, and there Stephen Langton proposed that they should offer the King a paper to sign, a paper on which should be written the things they claimed as a right.

5. This paper was drawn up and was called Magna Carta, the Great Charter. It was sent to John, who read it over and refused to sign it. He was very angry. 'Why do they not ask me for my



PENNY OF JOHN.

kingdom at once?' he cried. He believed that the King's will should be law. But no free people will ever submit to that.

- 6. Upon John's refusal, the Barons took up arms, and marched against the King. He was now frightened, and gave way. On June 15, 1215, there was a meeting between King John and Stephen Langton at Runnymede, near Windsor.
- 7. Langton was backed by a great force of Barons, who came to the place in shining armour, ready for

battle if the King should use treachery against them. But he proved smooth and smiling, and

when he was back in his castle at Windsor his mood changed. His rage burst forth with the utmost fury. He flung himself on the floor in his passion, tearing his clothes, biting sticks and straws in his mad frenzy.

- 8. But the Charter was safe. It was signed and sealed, and to it all could appeal whose rights and liberties were attacked, and it is often referred to up to this day.
- 9. It is true that John nimself gave little heed to the Charter. In a few months again he collected in army of foreign solliers, and with these he

EFFIGY OF KING JOHN IN WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

narched through his own country, killing men, women, and children, burning farms and houses.

torturing the wealthy to make them give up their riches, leaving the land a desert wherever he moved

10. Every morning John himself set fire to the house where he had slept the night before. But he died the next year, to the great joy of the people whom he had treated so cruelly.

NOTES.

Tyrant, a man who uses his power cruelly and unjustly.

Exacted, forced to pay.

League, a number of people banded together.

Charter, a writing. Treachery, double-dealing, deceit. Frenzy, rage, fury.

II. The Great Charter.

- 1. This Great Charter, won by the people under the guidance of Stephen Langton, contained in all sixty-three clauses. Many of them need not be considered here, but two of the most important are easy to understand, and go to the very depths of our English freedom and prosperity.
- 2. One of them says that no freeman shall be punished in any way except by the legal judgment of his peers (equals) or by the law of the land. That is, a man shall not be punished unless he has broken the law.
- 3. Now we are so used to a man who obeys the law being perfectly free and unharmed, that we can hardly imagine a time in our history when such a

provision was needed. But things were otherwise in the reign of King John.

- 4. If he heard that a man was rich, he would seize him and throw him into prison, from whence the man could only escape by giving a large sum of money to the King. If the prisoner proved stubborn, torture would be employed to squeeze his gold from him. It is said that John once seized a Jew and caused a sound tooth to be dragged out of his jaw every morning until he consented to give the King money. The Jew endured the agony for several mornings, but finally gave way. Such stories as these show the need for such a provision as that given above.
- 5. The other great clause runs, 'To no man will we sell, to no man will we deny or delay, right or ustice.'
- 6. To sell justice. What does this mean? It means that no judge shall be allowed to take a bribe to favour either party to a cause. This, again, is a ule which has been so carefully observed in English ourts for so long a time that any idea of bribery eems impossible.
- 7. You know that when two people have a serious uarrel, or when one accuses the other of wrongoing, the case often goes before a magistrate or a

judge. But no one in England would ever dream of going to the magistrate beforehand and giving him money in order to obtain a favourable decision. It would be trying to persuade him to sell justice, and would be an offence very heavily punished, and rightly so, too.

- ·8. To deny justice. This means that when a man brings forward a case of unlawful treatment, and begs that the offender be punished according to law, his claims are put aside, and he is left to bear the injustice without redress.
- 9. To delay justice. This also was a very unjust way of dealing with suitors. It might happen that a man had a very strong case to bring before the court, so strong that there was no answer to it. But if the other party had the ear of the judge, the latter would put off the trial time after time, and year after year, till the man who was anxious for justice lost all heart and hope of getting his case settled.
- 10. Or, again, a man might be thrown into prison, and if he were not brought before the judge there he must lie. This was a very convenient way of dealing with a man whom the King perhaps disliked, but against whom he could prove nothing. He had merely to take care that justice to him was delayed and he had the man at his mercy.

- 11. These two clauses, then, are of the utmost importance. Without them no land can progress, for a country only advances when every man is encouraged to do his utmost. But no man will strive hard unless the fruits of his labour are secured to him. And who can be secure unless the law deals fairly and honestly between man and man?
- 12. Let us remember, then, that the Great Charter is the foundation upon which our liberty is built, and that it was the first great step which the people took towards checking the tyranny of the Norman Kings and restoring the old English freedom. And let us remember, too, the great name of Stephen Langton, whose work remains to this day, and will remain as long as the English are a law-abiding people.

NOTES.

Bribe, a sum of money or other present given to gain a person's favour.

Redress, the putting right of a wrong.

Suitor, one who brings a case before a judge.

SIMON DE MONTFORT.

I. The Good Earl Simon.

1. Simon de Montfort was not an Englishman porn and bred. He came to England from France n order to take up great estates which had fallen to him on the death of his father. But he devoted himself to his new country, and became heart and soul a friend and helper of the English. So much was he beloved, that the people of his time called him the 'Good Earl Simon' and trusted him in everything.

2. He lived in the time of Henry the Third (1216-



SIMON DE MONTFORT.

the son of John, and though he was not as wicked as his father, he proved a very weak and foolish King. Henry married a French wife, and a great number of her friends came to England with her. These friends were treated with much favour by

the King. He gave them lands and wealth. They filled all the great offices which ought to have been held by Englishmen.

3. It was not likely that the English would look on these foreigners with favour also. They regarded them as intruders and robbers, and both Barons and people became very angry when the King laid heavy taxes on the country in order to provide himself and his friends with the means for wasteful extravagance. The pride of the English, too, was hurt; for these foreigners not only drained the country of its wealth, but treated the natives with scorn, and poured insult and ridicule upon them.

- 4. Now it would have been easy for Simon de Montfort, himself born a Frenchman and married to the King's sister, to have thrown in his lot with the newcomers, to whom the King was friendly. But he sided with the right. He had chosen to become an Englishman, and he took the lead of the English Barons, who were resolved to put an end to Henry's misgovernment.
- 5. 'We will make the King observe the laws set down in the Great Charter,' they said. So they took up arms to force Henry to pay respect to the Charter they had wrung from his father. Henry was quite willing to promise to do so. But his word was worth nothing; he would take the most solemn oath to obey the Charter, and break it next day.
- 6 Simon de Montfort saw that it was necessary to have some kind of Council who could help the King in governing the country, who could say what taxes were needed and how great the amount should

be, who could see that just laws were made and observed.

- 7. All such work as this is performed at the present day by our Parliament. Men are elected for every part of the country and for every large town to meet together and settle about the government of the country, the raising of taxes, the making of laws. Now, the glory of Simon de Montfort is this: he was the first man who called together any body of citizens which resembles our modern Parliament.
- 8. Before his time the great nobles had met in Council to arrange the affairs of the nation. But in 1265, when De Montfort and his friends were in power, the first real Parliament in our history was summoned. There came to it members from the counties and the large towns. Through them the country found a voice, and could make the wishes of the people known both with regard to law and taxation.

NOTES

Intruder, one who pushes in unbidden.

Extravagance, waste of money.

Ridicule, laughing at anyone. Elected, chosen by vote. Summoned, called together.

II. The First Parliament.

1. This First Parliament, though much weaker than our Parliament to-day, was a great improvement in managing the affairs of the nation. Hitherto the King had raised money how he could, sometimes by taxes, sometimes actually taking money by force, and sometimes by begging. Henry the Third used to beg so hard for presents from his rich nobles that he was 'accounted the chief of the sturdy beggars of the kingdom.'

- 2. Now the King could call Parliament together, say how much money he wanted, and what it was wanted for. The Barons and citizens assembled in Parliament could debate as to whether the purposes for which the money was needed were right and just, could agree upon how much they would give, and how it was to be collected.
- 3. It is plain that Parliament was a check upon the powers of the King, and a great safeguard to the rights of the people. It is not wonderful, then, that we find for hundreds of years that the Kings disliked Parliament, and called it together as little as they could, very often only when they wanted money.
- 4. Then came the chance of Parliament. The members would refuse to grant money unless the King would promise to reform some abuse or give them some new privilege. And so the power of Parliament grew and grew.
 - 5. There had been much fighting between the

King and the Barons, led by Simon de Montfort, before the First Parliament met, and it was not long ere warfare broke out again. Some of De Montfort's most powerful friends left him and went over to the King. The latter was much helped by his son Edward, a brave young warrior, afterwards famous as Edward the First.

- 6. Edward made the first attack. He fell upon De Montfort's son, defeated him, and scattered his forces. Next the royal troops marched upon De Montfort himself, and met his army near Evesham in Worcestershire. At first De Montfort thought his son was approaching, for the captured banners were carried in front. When he saw his mistake and perceived the great strength of the enemy, he knew that all was lost, that he could not hope to overcome so powerful a host. Nevertheless, he arranged his men with great skill, and prepared to fight to the last.
- 7. He rode out before his troops, and saw that his enemies were coming on in beautiful order. He had taught young Edward the art of war, and his own lessons were being turned against himself.
- 8. 'Ha!' cried the noble old soldier, 'they come on in wise fashion. 'Twas from me they learnt it.'
 Then he placed himself at the head of his troops

and awaited the attack. The battle was short and furious. De Montfort's small army was outnumbered and overpowered. He was struck from his horse. He struggled to his feet, and continued the battle until he fell amidst his men, pierced by a score of wounds.

9. Thus died Simon de Montfort, a true patriot and a brave warrior. His death was heard of with great grief throughout England. The people wept when they knew that their champion, Sir Simon the Righteous, as they called him, had fallen at the hands of his enemies and theirs. But his work did not die with him. Little by little the strength of Parliament grew, until it was all-powerful, and no King dared to do wrong to the poorest and weakest of his subjects.

NOTES.

Citizens, people who live in a town | Privilege, a special right.
Patriot, a lover of his country.

EDWARD THE FIRST.

I. An English King.

1. Edward the First, who came to the throne of England in 1272, was the first King since the Conuest who could be called a Famous Englishman. During the two centuries which had passed since

Harold fell at Hastings, the Kings of England could hardly be called Englishmen.

2. Some of them could not speak a word of English; some only spent a month or two of the year in England, being fonder of the lands they owned abroad. Almost all of them would have regarded the name of Englishman as a great in-



EDWARD THE FIRST.

sult, for the Normans looked upon the people of England with scorn and contempt.

3. But Edward the First was no stranger to his people, as most of the Norman Kings had been. He was born at Westminster. He lived the greater part of his life among his people. He looked

like an Englishman. He had yellow hair, and was tall and strong. He had the English love of fair play and straight dealing. His motto was 'Keep Troth.'

4. He was in himself a very great man, and so became one of the greatest of English Kings. He

loved the battle and he loved the chase. He spoke English, Latin, and French, and could talk in their own tongue with the men who had business with him. He was a good son, a good husband and a good father. He was merciful and tender-hearted. 'No man,' he said, 'ever asked mercy of me and was refused.'

5. His chief fault was that at times the fierce temper of his house (Henry the Second was his ancestor) blazed out in him, and then his rage was

terrible to behold. Once he burst out with such fury of speech upon a number of clergy who had been summoned before him that the Dean of St. Paul's fell dead from fright. Another time he was so vexed with some careless trick of one of his



HEAD-DRESS OF THE PERIOD.

servants that he leapt into a river, swam across, then climbed a high rock, to reach the man and give him a beating upon the spot.

6. He had none of the Norman pride and contempt for men of low rank. Wherever he went he was cheerful and friendly to rich and poor. He had all the English love of fun, and enjoyed a jest with the merriest. It is no wonder that his people loved him.

- 7. The two aims of Edward's life were the aims of a great man who had thought out his plans carefully. First, he wished to bring the whole island, England, Wales, Scotland, under his rule. Second, he wished to give the people a greater share in the government of the land. Here we can see that he had learned a lesson from his old teacher, Simon de Montfort, and that the 'Good Earl Simon' had not died in vain.
- 8. At the time Edward came to the throne, Wales and Scotland were ruled by their own Kings, and Edward turned his attention first to Wales as the nearest and the most troublesome enemy.
- 9. The Welsh, safe among their wild mountains, had always defied both Saxons and Normans. The Norman Kings had placed a line of castles along the Welsh borders to hold them in check, and these castles were under the care of Barons called the Lords of the Marches, or Lords Marchers. March here has the same meaning as border.
- 10. When there was peace elsewhere, there was no peace for the Lords Marchers. They had to keep a sharp watch day and night for the wild Welsh, who loved nothing better than to rush down from their hills, plunder the country around the castles, and then escape to their mountain homes

with the booty they had gathered. Every time, too, that there was trouble in England the Welsh took advantage of it to make an inroad into the country, burning and destroying all before them.

NOTES.

Troth, truth. Chase, hunting.

Ancestor, forefather. Booty, plunder.

II. The Conquest of Wales.

- 1. Edward resolved that he would put an end to the Welsh trouble once and for all. First he called upon the Welsh Prince, Llewelyn, to come to London and do homage to him as Overlord of Wales. Llewelyn refused, saying that he was an independent Prince and would do homage to no man.
- 2. So Edward marched against Llewelyn, and there was sharp fighting; but in the end Llewelyn was compelled to fly to the wild and broken country where stands Snowdon, country in which no English troops could move.
- 3. But Edward was not a general from whom an enemy could easily escape. If he could not follow Llewelyn, he could prevent food from reaching him. So he took care that all supplies were cut off, and soon the Welsh Prince was starved out and compelled to surrender. He agreed to do as Edward wished, and recognise the English King as his Over-

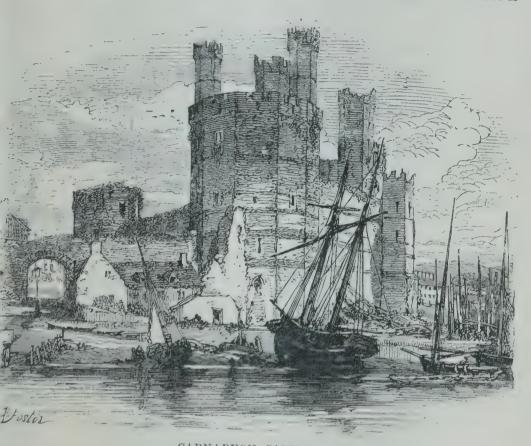
lord. He was allowed to marry Eleanor de Montfort, the daughter of Earl Simon and the cousin of

King Edward.

4. To this day the Welsh remember the English Princess who was the wife of their last Prince. Her name, in the Welsh form Elin, or Elinor, is still a favourite one in many parts of Wales. The children read stories telling how peaceful and happy was their land while the Lady of Snowdon lived. This was the name the Welsh gave to the wife of their Prince, and Eleanor de Montfort was the last to bear it.

- 5. She died a few years after her marriage, and then war broke out again. This time Llewelyn was driven from his stronghold among the mountains into South Wales. One day a party of English soldiers got word of the place where Llewelyn was, and they marched against him. They took him by surprise, a surprise so complete that he had not even time to put his armour on. There was a short fight, and the Prince was killed by a spear-thrust.
 - 6. The fall of Llewelyn may be called the end of the war. His brother David held out a little longer, but he, too, was caught and carried to Shrewsbury, where he was put to death in a very cruel manner.

7. The Welsh had now no leaders, and Edward was master of the land. He divided Wales into shires and introduced English laws. He fostered trade in the towns, and encouraged merchants to travel through the country. The Welsh settled



CARNARVON CASTLE.

own in peace, and have ever since been regarded s a part of the kingdom, and fellow-countrymen f the English.

8. Edward was anxious to gain the goodwill of he Welsh, as he knew they would live much more

quietly on friendly terms than if kept down by force. In 1284 a son was born to him in Carnaryon Castle. Thereupon he called together the Welsh chieftains and promised them 'a Prince, born in Wales, who could speak never a word of English, and who never did wrong to man, woman, or child.'

9. They agreed to obey such a Prince, and took the joke in good part when the baby was presented to them. The child received the homage of the chieftains; he was tended by a Welsh nurse and Welsh servants. He became the first Prince of Wales, a title borne ever since by the eldest son of the King or Queen of England.

NOTES.

homage knelt before the King, put his hands between the King's hands,

Homage. The man who performed | and promised to be the King's man and obey him.

Surrender, give up.

III. Edward and the Scots.

1. When Edward had conquered Wales, he turned his attention to Scotland, and at first it seemed as if he were about to get his way quite easily. In 1286 Alexander the Third, the last of the old line of Scottish Kings, died, and the crown of Scotland came to his grand-daughter. This was a little girl, daughter of the King of Norway, who had married a Scottish Princess.

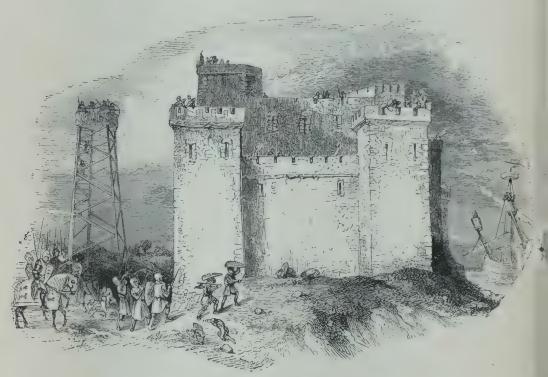
- 2. Edward proposed that this little girl, known as the Maid of Norway, should marry his son Edward when both were old enough, and so the crowns would be united. The Scots agreed to this, and all looked well. A ship was sent to Norway to fetch the Maid over the sea to become Queen of Scotland.
 - 3. But she fell ill on the voyage and died, and all the plans were upset. Her death brought terrible trouble to Scotland. The throne was claimed by no fewer than thirteen great nobles, each of whom said that he was the nearest relation to the royal line and had the best right to the crown. It was plain that something must be done quickly, or the claimants would soon be fighting among themselves, and Scotland be filled with civil war. So Edward was asked to decide which man had the best claim.
- 4. The matter soon came to a trial between two nobles named John Balliol and Robert Bruce, whose claims were far before all others. Both were Norman Barons holding lands in England as well as in Scotland. Edward decided in favour of Balliol, who acknowledged the English King as his Overlord. This did not please the Scottish people, and trouble arose, until within a few years Balliol was forced by his subjects to defy Edward.
 - 5. Edward prepared a strong army to march

against the Scots. When the latter heard that he was coming, they burst over the border, 40,000 strong, and began to ravage Cumberland. A writer of the day who saw the doings of the Scots says: 'They surpassed the cruelty of the heathens; for, not being able to seize upon the strong, they attacked the weakly, the sickly, and the young; children of two and three years old they tossed about on spears, churches they burned, and slew women dedicated to God.'

- 6. It was not long before Edward was upon the scene, and the Scots retired, leaving a strong force to hold Berwick-upon-Tweed, then a Scottish town and a great seaport. Edward took Berwick with great loss on both sides, and it has remained an English town ever since.
- 7. Then Edward marched on, beat the Scots at Dunbar, and took their strong castles right and left, until at last Balliol came before him without rich robes or royal crown, and bearing a white rod of penance in his hand. He begged Edward's pardon and prayed for forgiveness. When Edward returned to England, he carried with him the royal jewels of Scotland and the stone upon which for ages past the Scottish Kings had taken their seat to be crowned.

BERWICK-ON-TWEED

8. This stone may be seen to-day in Westminster Abbey. It is set beneath the seat of the chair in which all English Sovereigns since then have been crowned. The Scots believed that it was the stone upon which Jacob rested his head when he dreamed at Bethel.



STORMING A CASTLE.

9. But the Scottish people were not yet content to submit to the rule of Edward. They gathered under the command of a famous and able soldier, Sir William Wallace, and fought for their liberty. Wallace defeated the English army Edward had left in Scotland, and became master of the country.

He was a brave man and a great leader, and under him the Scots marched from victory to victory till all Edward's work was undone.

10. Again the great English King went northwards, and now Wallace met his master. The Scots

were defeated in a great battle, and Wallace fled to France. Some years later he returned, and was captured. Edward put him to death in a most cruel fashion, and this conduct is a great blot upon his name, for Wallace deserved the treatment of an honest foe, and not of a traitor.

11. Still the Scots broke out into revolt



SIR WILLIAM WALLACE.

after revolt, and the last of these was under the command of Robert Bruce, the grandson of that Robert Bruce who had been the rival of Balliol.

12. Edward, now an old man of sixty-eight, set out again for Scotland with a mighty army, vowing

a great vow that he would never rest until he had put down the Scots finally. He threatened fire and sword to every corner of the country.

- 13. He was now infirm and feeble, and as he travelled he grew much worse. Yet his spirit was as resolute as ever. He felt that he would not live himself to crush the Scots, but he begged his son to go on with the work, and he desired that his body might be carried at the head of the army until the task was completed.
- 14. At a little village called Burgh-upon-Sands he became so ill that he could journey no farther. He was now within sight of Scotland, but he never crossed the Border. Here he died. No sooner was the great and brave old King dead than all his, plans of conquest were thrown upon one side. His son Edward, a weak, foolish young man, thought only of his own pleasures. He paid no attention to his father's wishes, and the Scottish war was abandoned.

NOTE.

Civil war, a war between two divisions of one people.

IV. Edward's Laws.

1. We have read of Edward's work in war, and now it is time to ask what he did in peace. Here

he was just as great as a law-giver as in battle he was a warrior. In his time many of the great Barons held courts of their own. In these courts they tried all wrong-doers of their neighbourhood.

- 2. Edward did not feel satisfied with this. He was sure that people who came before these courts did not get so just a trial as they would have had in the King's court. Besides this, Edward felt certain that many of the Barons had no proper right to much of the land they held. He believed that they had taken it secretly out of the common land which ought to be free to everybody.
- 3. So he issued an order called 'Quo warranto?'—that is, 'By what warrant?' 'By what right?'—asking what right the Barons had to hold these courts, and what title could they show for their lands. One of the Barons, John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, when asked before the King's judges what title-deed or warrant he had to show for his estates, pulled out an old and rusty sword and held it up. 'Here, sirs, is my warrant,' he said. 'My fathers came over with William the Conqueror, and with this sword they won their lands, and with the sword I will keep them against all who try to seize them.'
- 4. Edward made laws which provided that all nen should keep their arms in good order, to be

ready for war. He also ordered that all roads between market towns should be cleared of trees and brushwood for the space of 200 feet on either side. This was to prevent robbers from hiding behind trees to spring out upon travellers.

- 5. But Edward's greatest work was the calling of the Model Parliament of 1295. To this Parliament came the Barchs, the clergy, two men from each shire, and two citizens from each large town. Thus, there was now someone in the Parliament to speak for every class of the people.
- 6. This was quite in agreement with Edward's favourite maxim, 'That which touches all should be agreed to by all.' All people had to pay taxes, and he wished all classes of people to have a say in settling the amount and manner of the payment. It was a very important step, for the freedom of the English people springs largely from the fact that through the men they send to Parliament they themselves make the laws by which they are governed.
- 7. Parliament now began to enjoy the power which has always been, and still is, the backbone of its strength—the power of the purse; that is to say, it began to grant or withhold money according as it approved or did not approve of the objects for which the money was wanted, or having regard to

the amount of money the country had already found.

- 8. In Edward's day the tax known as Customs was first raised. This is a payment on goods entering or leaving a country. Edward raised his money chiefly upon wool. In those times England sent a great deal of wool abroad to Europe. A tax of so much was laid upon every sack of wool sent out, and in this manner much of the money required for Edward's great wars was raised.
- 9. Edward's reign marks the time of a great change for England. He was a great law-giver, a great warrior, and a great worker. He put his whole heart into whatever he did, and there can be no doubt, his chief wish was to do his best for his people. He was one of the greatest rulers England has ever known.

NOTE.

Title-deed, the writing which shows anyone's claim to a piece of property.

EDWARD THE THIRD AND THE BLACK PRINCE.

I. The French War.

1. Edward the Third was the grandson of Edward the First, and, like his grandfather, he was a great warrior, though not equal to him as a ruler.

Edward the Third was only fourteen when he came to the throne (1327), and he had to enter upon fighting almost at once.

2. For the Scots were resolved upon war, and their King sent a message to Edward saying that he would 'enter England and burn it, as he had done before.' Edward and his friends gathered a strong



EDWARD THE THIRD.

army and set out towards Scotland. On the way Edward heard that the Scots had crossed the Border and were doing great mischief in Cumberland.

3. The King marched against the Scots, but could not come face to face with them. They kept out of his way, and con-

tinued to plunder the country. So quick were the nimble Scots that they marched two miles to the English one, and slipped from place to place, avoiding a battle.

4. The Scots moved quickly because they travelled light. Each man rode a strong, hardy pony and

carried all he wanted fastened to his saddle. He had a bag of oatmeal and an iron plate to bake his oatmeal cakes; for meat he ate the flesh of the English cattle. No slow-moving carts hampered the Scots, and thus by the swiftness of their movements they escaped Edward altogether, and he had to return without punishing them for their attack upon England.

- 5. A few years later war broke out again, and Edward met the Scots at Halidon Hill, near Berwick. This time there was a pitched battle, and the English won a great victory. No men had a greater share in the victory than the English archers. It s said of them that 'they made their arrows fly as thick as motes in the sunbeam.'
- 6. Edward's next war was with France. It is one of the greatest wars in history. It lasted far beyond the lifetime of the men who began it, for, with intervals of peace, it went on from 1337 to 1451, more than a hundred years. From this it is called the Hundred Years' War.
- 7. Edward attacked France for two reasons. For one thing, he was angry with the French because they had helped the Scots with men and money; or another, he claimed the crown of France for nimself. This claim was not good. It is true that

he was related to the royal line of France through his mother, who had been a French Princess, but there were others who had a better claim than he.

- 8. Edward gathered a large army and prepared to cross the sea (1340). At the last moment word was brought to him that the French had collected a great fleet in the harbour of Sluys, on the coast of Flanders, and were ready and waiting for Edward's ships. Some of Edward's chief men wanted him to hold back from so dangerous a journey because his enemies were so numerous and so strong. But Edward's warlike temper was aroused, and he flew into a rage with these advisers, crying, 'I shall go; those who are afraid where no need of fear is may stay at home.'
- 9. Edward sailed away with a fleet of 200 English ships, and the next day, towards evening, came in sight of the French fleet. So great was the crowd of the French vessels that 'their masts appeared to be like a great wood.'
- 10. At daybreak next morning the English saw that their enemies were drawn up before the river mouth on which Sluys stands, in order to prevent them from entering the port. The French ships were chained together to offer a front like a wall, and upon them high wooden towers were built.

These towers were filled with men who were ready to shoot arrows and fling great stones down upon the English decks In those days there were no guns and cannon to fight with. Ships sailed straight at each other, and the men on the vessels fought hand-to-hand.

- 11. King Edward made ready for the fight by putting the ladies who were with the fleet in some swift vessels under a strong guard. There were 'fifty noble ladies of honour' going to wait upon his Queen, who was abroad. Then he took the lead of the fighting vessels, and the English ships bore down upon the foe.
- 12. The King had placed some vessels filled with exchers in front, and as soon as these came within range of the French ships the archers poured so terrible a hail of steel-headed arrows into the enemy that the latter were driven from the decks. Next, with a loud crash ship ran against ship, and the English men-at-arms, gripping sword or axe, leapt from their own vessels on to those of their enemies, and began to lay about them with loud shouts.
- 13. The French fought bravely, but the English wept all before them. They cleared ship after ship, eaping from one to another. Some of the French ships tried to escape, but the English sailors flung

great hooks and grappling-irons aboard them, and held them fast.

- 14. At last the French lost all heart, and thousands of them leaped into the sea and were drowned. It was one of the first great English victories at sea, and never was victory more complete, or with less harm to the conquerors. Of the French fleet scarcely any escaped, while the English lost but two ships.
- 15. So dreadful was the defeat that for a time no one dared tell the French King, Philip, the evil news. At last it was broken to him by the Court jester, who said, 'What cowards these English are!' 'Why so?' asked Philip. 'Why,' said the jester, 'they had not the courage to jump into the sea, as our noble Frenchmen did by thousands.'

NOTES.

Hampered, made them slow.

Halidon Hill. This battle was fought in 1333.

II. The Battle of Crecy.

1. A few years after the fight at Sluys, Edward was marching through France with an English army, when he heard that the French King was coming against him with an army much stronger than his own. Edward turned at bay near a village called Crecy, and there waited for the French.

BATTLE OF CRECY.

- 2. It was late one afternoon in August, 1346, where the French came within sight of the English lines Edward was quite ready for them. His men had had time to 'eat at their ease and drink a cup, after which they sat down in their ranks and waited patiently for the French, with their long bows and helmets lying beside them on the warm grass.'
- 3. Now they sprang to their feet and made ready to receive the foe. At their head was Edward's eldest son, a boy of sixteen, the ever-famous Black Prince. To him the King had entrusted the command of the front line, while he watched the fight from a windmill which looked over the field. There he stood ready to bring up aid with a small rearguard.
- 4. The English were posted on a little hill, and soon saw a great mass of Genoese crossbow-men coming towards them. The men of Genoa were famous for their skill with the bow. They formed themselves into archer companies, and hired themselves out to fight for those who would pay them well. The French King had engaged a large band of them to fight the English.
- 5. But the Genoese had allowed the strings of their bows to get wet in a heavy shower which passed over the two armies just before the battle.

They were unwilling to fight, but the French drove them forward. The English, on their side, had kept their bows safe and dry in their cases. The opening

of the battle is thus described by Froissart, a famous writer of the day:

drew near, the Genoese bowmen made a great leap and set up a mighty shout, hoping to frighten the English. But these stood still and stirred not for all that. And a second time they made another leap and shouted a dread-



A CROSS-BOW

ful cry. And still the Englishmen moved not one foot. Again they leapt and cried out, and went forward till they were within shot. And now they

shot fiercely with their crossbows. Then stepped the English archers forward one pace; and their arrows flew so fast and so thick that it seemed to snow.

- 7. 'When the Genoese felt the arrows piercing through hands and arms and breasts, many of them cast down their crossbows and ran back. When the French King saw them flying, he said, "Slay me those runaway rascals, for they block our path!" Then the men-at-arms dashed in among them and killed a great number thereof.'
- 8. While the enemy were thus fighting among themselves, the English bowmen poured their arrows faster and thicker among them. Now knights clad in complete armour advanced against the Black Prince and his men, and they were so many and so brave that the Black Prince was almost overpowered.
- 9. But he and his men fought like heroes. The men-at-arms hacked away with sword or battle-axe, the archers at such short range sent their arrows clean through steel armour, and a body of Welshmen armed with long knives crept among the French horsemen, stabbing their horses from beneath, and then stabbing the knights who fell when their horses rolled down under them.
 - 10. At last the Black Prince was so sore pressed

that one of his knights galloped back to Edward to beg him to send help to his son.

- 'Is my son killed?' asked the King.
- · 'No,' replied the messenger; 'but he is in sore straits.'
 - 'Is he wounded?'
 - 'No, Sire.'
 - 'Then, go back,' said the King, 'and tell those who sent you that he shall have no help from me. Let the boy win his spurs.'
- 11. When this answer was brought back to the Black Prince and his companions, it put fresh heart into them, and they charged the French with such fury that nothing could stand before them. In the end the English gained a complete victory. As darkness settled down, the French broke and fled, leaving two Kings—the Kings of Majorca and Bohemia—eleven Princes, and many thousands of nobles, knights, and men dead upon the field.
- 12. King Edward ordered his men not to pursue, for the English did not know the country. He had great fires kindled along the English lines, and his men gathered about them.
- 13. What a meeting was that between Edward and his famous son after the battle! The King took the Black Prince in his arms before the whole army

by the light of the blazing watch-fires, and said Fair son, right royally have you behaved to-day and proved yourself worthy of a crown. Then the young Prince bowed to the ground and 'gave the honour to the King his father.'

NOTES.

Black Prince, so called (1) from the black armour he were, or (2) because of the muschief he did to the French.

Genoa, a great seaport of Italy.

Majorea, one of the Released Islands of how belongs to Some Bohemia, in Central Facety of now a part of Austina.

III. The Siege of Calais.

- 1. After Edward and his son had won this great victory at Crecy they marched to the town of Calais. Calais is a French seaport just opposite Dover, and Edward was very eager to obtain possession of it. He knew that with Calais in his own hands he would always have an open door into France, and, besides, it was a great resort of pirates who prowled up and down the Channel, seizing English merchant ships.
- 2. The men of Calais were resolved to do their best to keep their town out of Edward's hands. Like all towns in those days, it was surrounded by walls; so when the English drew near, the men of Calais gathered a large supply of food from the country about, retired to the shelter of their walls, shut the gates, and prepared to defy Edward.

- 3. The English King was so resolved to take the town that he said he would starve the citizens out 'though he should have to stay before it for a dozen 'years.' He settled down before the place, and his men built huts for themselves to live in, and there were so many, and placed in such good order, that they looked like a town about a town. This city of huts was laid out in streets, with a market, shops, and storehouses.
- 4. Edward called it 'Newtown the Bold,' and it was supplied with plenty of food, some by ravaging the neighbouring part of France, some by ships from England.
- 5. For a whole year Edward remained before Calais. The poor French shut up in the town suffered terribly from hunger. A letter was seized which was meant for the French King, and in this letter the Governor of Calais said that they had eaten the horses, dogs, and cats, and that they could find no more to eat unless they are each other.
- 6. Soon after this a great French army came to Calais hoping to drive Edward away, or to get him to leave the strong position he had taken up. Edward waited for them to attack him, but no attack was delivered. Whether the French lost heart, or whether they thought Edward too strongly

posted for them to succeed, no one can say. But one August morning the English, to their great wonder, saw the French army marching away, leaving their camp in flames.

- 7. Here was a terrible sight for the starving people of Calais, who saw everything from their lofty walls and towers. They lost all hope, and the next day the Governor offered to surrender the town if Edward would permit the people to leave in safety. But Edward was so enraged by the length of time the men of Calais had kept him before the walls that at first he would hear of no such thing, but threatened death to all.
- 8. Some of his own knights begged him to be more merciful, and in the end Edward said he would spare the lives of the citizens on condition that six of the chief men of Calais should come to him, bare-headed and bare-footed, each with a halter about his neck, and bringing with them the keys of the town.
- 9. The people of Calais had been called to the market-place by the ringing of a bell to hear their fate. When the messenger returned and they knew Edward's will, a deep silence fell upon the famished crowd. Who would give his life for his brethren?

10. Then the richest burgess in Calais stepped forward, and said: 'My friends, it would be a great pity and mischief to let such a people as this die by



THE BRAVE MEN OF CALAIS. From the sculpture by Rodin.

famine if a means can be found to save them. I have myself so great hope of finding grace and

pardon in the sight of our Lord, if I die to save this people, that I will be the first, and will yield myself willingly, in nothing but my shirt, with my head bare, and the halter round my neck, to the mercy of the King of England.' Five other brave men were soon found ready to follow this noble example, and they were led to Edward's tent, followed by the people, weeping bitterly.

- 11. They knelt before Edward, and gave up the keys of the city. He looked upon them angrily, and ordered that their heads should be struck off at once. Some of the English nobles urged him to forgive them. They begged him not to disgrace himself by putting to death men who offered so nobly to sacrifice themselves for their fellows, but Edward would listen to nothing.
- 12. Then his wife, the good Queen Philippa, flung herself on her knees before him, and begged with tears for the lives of these brave citizens. Edward could not resist her pleading.

'Ah, lady,' he said, 'I would you were not here at this moment. I cannot refuse you. I give them to you. Do as you will with them.' So the good Queen took these brave men to her own tent, and gave them food and clothes and all they needed.

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Thus Calais fell into English hands, and remained an English city for more than 200 years.

NOTES.

Ravaging, plundering. Surrender, give up.

Halter, a rope.
Burgess, a townsman.

IV. The Plague.

- 1. In the year after the siege of Calais a terrible attack of the plague visited England. It began in the East, travelled across Europe, and reached England in the autumn of the year 1348.
- 2. This dreadful sickness carried off, it is said, one half of the people of the country. It was fatal to both men and animals. In many parts of the land whole villages lay empty and desolate, every living creature, man and beast, swept away by the Black Death.
- 3. It was given this name because dark blotches appeared upon the skin of persons suffering from it. No one was safe from it. Rich and poor, strong and weak, wherever the Black Death showed itself, thousands and thousands were destroyed; those who seemed in the best of health died in a few hours after the plague seized upon them.
- 4. This fearful sickness is one of those which people call dirt diseases. By this they mean that

the disease springs from some uncleanly mode of living.

5. Pure air, pure water, pure food—those are the weapons with which to fight the plague. We know



FOURTEENTH - CENTURY SERVANTS: A GATE-PORTER, WITH HIS CLUB AND KEYS, AND AN INDOOR SERVANT.

in the world today, we read in the newspapers of cases here and there; but it cannot attack our country now as the Black Death did, because we do not live in the fashion of our forefathers.

6. In 1348 no one troubled about keeping houses or streets clean;

people allowed rubbish to rot about their doors. They strewed rushes on their floors as a floor-covering, and when fresh ones were needed, they were pitched down on the old ones, the latter being allowed to lie there still with all the dirt they had gathered.

- 7. No care was taken to keep the water clean and pure. Many of the poorer houses had no windows, no chimneys, no ventilation. It is no wonder that such a disease as the plague, which is costered by dirt and foul air and bad water, made such a clean sweep through the country.
- 8. This great loss of life made a wide change in the condition of the lower orders of the people. Before the plague there had been serfs—that is, slaves: they were bound to the land of some great landlord, and were not free to go elsewhere to work even if they heard of a place with better wages.
- 9. But now that half the labourers were dead, there was a great demand for the services of the half still living. These men saw their chance, and asked for better pay. The landlords did not wish to give it; but they had to do so or see their land lie idle, or their hay and corn rotting on the ground for want of men to gather the crops.
- 10. Many of the labourers, too, had tilled plots of ground for themselves. They did not pay rents for these in money, but in labour. Each man worked so many days in the year on the landlord's farm in return for the rent of his own little farm. Now he began to grumble at this paying in labour, for labour

was very dear. He wished to pay in money, and be free of the obligation of working for the landlord.

11. For his part, the landlord wished to keep the labourer to the old terms, for they were the most profitable to him. This led to a long struggle between rich and poor; but in the end the poor carried the day, and the workman earned the right of selling his labour to the man who would give him most money for it.

NOTES.

Blotch, a mark on the skin.

Ventilation, the elearing out of bad air from a building.

Fostered, helped, strengthened.

V. The Battle of Poitiers.

- 1. The French war still went on, and another great battle was fought between French and English in the year 1356 at Poitiers, in France. This time the Black Prince was in full command of the English, and his chances of victory seemed far less than at Crecy.
- 2. In the first place, he was hemmed in by a splendid French army many times greater than his own, and, in the second, his few men were short of provisions, so short, that some of the soldiers had not tasted food for three days before the battle.
- 3. The Black Prince felt that he had so little chance that he offered to give up the booty he had

just gathered on a raid through France, and to promise not to fight against the French for seven years if they would let him and his men go free.

- 4. The French would not listen to him. They demanded that the Black Prince and his chief men should give themselves up as prisoners. They were so certain that this small half-starved army was delivered into their hands that they were not willing to accept any terms, so they asked very hard ones.
- 5. The English laughed to scorn the idea of giving up their dear and famous leader, and made ready for battle. The Black Prince placed his men carefully on a hill where thick hedges blocked the way of the horsemen. Only by a narrow lane could the French knights ride up to attack him, and this lane he lined with English bowmen.
- 6. How many men the Black Prince had is hard to say, but it is known that he had started on his raid with only 8,000, and he had much less than that number now. Against him marched 40,000 of the finest troops of France. 'There,' says Froissart, 'might be seen all the flower of the nobility of France, richly dressed out in brilliant armour. No knight or squire, for fear of dishonour, dared to remain at home.'
 - 7. A strong band of knights rode up the narrow

lane to drive the archers from their places. The latter loosed not a single arrow till their foes were close upon them; then the great English bows, six feet in length, twanged all together. The arrows, a yard long, were driven through steel helmet and

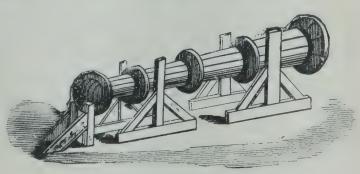


FOURTEENTH-CENTURY ARMOUR

breastplate, and brought down knights and horses in one confused heap. Fresh men rode forward and were shot down, until the narrow lane was one tangled mass of horses and men, none able to get forward, none able to get back.

- 8. The deadly English arrows broke to pieces the French attack, but still the main body of the enemy, commanded by the King of France himself, stood firm. Upon this body charged the Black Prince at the head of his men-at-arms, and a terrible hand-to-hand struggle took place.
- 9. Many of the French fled, but King John of France stood his ground stoutly, striking to right and left with his battle-axe, until he was overpowered and seized. With his capture the French

gave way
everywhere
and ran. King
John was led
to the Black
Prince, who received him



EARLY WOODEN CANNON.

with great respect, and himself waited upon the fallen King at supper that evening.

- 10. These two great battles of Crecy and Poitiers are of much importance, because, for the first time in history, we see the common foot-soldier not only a match for the knight clothed in complete armour and riding a great war-horse, but his better.
- 11. The English bowman, at home perhaps a serf, or at best a small farmer, easily overthrew the great

lord and his knights covered with mail, and the Welsh and Irish, on foot, completed the ruin the archers had begun.

12. At Crecy, too, were heard the first reports of cannon in the field. Edward used some small, clumsy cannon made of strips of wood held together by iron hoops, and throwing shot about the size of a cricket ball. People did not take much notice of gunpowder then. They did not think it would become the chief thing in battle, until everyone had laid aside armour because it was no defence against a bullet.

NOTES.

Provisions, food.

Raid, a march for the sake of plunder.

VI. Edward and his People.

- 1. Edward the Third reigned over England for fifty years. During this long reign the power of the people grew steadily. We have seen how his grandfather, Edward the First, had caused every class to be represented in Parliament, and when the members met together, men from every part of the country, they talked of what was right and what was wrong in the government.
- 2. Soon they began to make it plain that they would not agree to pay the great sums Edward

demanded, unless he on his side would agree to grant them greater freedom and a larger share in making new laws. Now, Edward very often stood in need of money to carry on his wars. The French wars cost vast sums of money in the hiring of soldiers, the carrying of them oversea, the feeding, and the arming of them.

- 3. As a rule, Edward's people were very proud of his victories, and granted him large supplies of money freely. But sometimes the King tried to obtain money without going to Parliament and asking them to raise taxes. He raised taxes of his own.
- 4. He set men to collect money from the merchants, making them pay so much on every sack of wool they sent out of the country; he raised 'forced loans'—that is, he asked wealthy men to lend him money. It was called lending, but it was really giving, for he never dreamt of paying them back again. Or he would call upon the clergy or traders and beg them to grant him a ninth or a fifteenth part of their goods.
- 5. Parliament did not like this, because it made Edward independent of them; and at last they secured a law that the King should raise no money in any manner 'without the grant and consent

of the Commons in Parliament.' This was a most important right, and Parliament has held to it

firmly ever since.

6. During this reign the trade of the country increased very much. England became famous for the excellent wool it produced, and English ships carried it over to the Continent. The sailors on these ships had to keep a sharp lookout for pirates, with which the English Channel and the North Sea swarmed. After Edward's great sea-victories the English ships kept command of the sea, and the pirates were put down, an excellent thing for the English merchants.

7. Another important point is that in this reign English began to be used again in the courts of law. Ever since the Conquest, the lawyers had spoken and written in French, and this was hard for the English who only knew their own language. They could not always be sure they had justice. Now English was spoken again (1362), and every man could follow what was said, and know that things were settled

fairly.

8. In the year 1376 the Black Prince died, to the great grief of the whole nation. He had been the idol of the people, who had hoped to see him reign over them. But a wasting sickness seized upon him,

and for years before his death he was enfeebled by illness. In 1377 Edward the Third himself died after a long and glorious reign. It was a reign famous both in peace and war. Edward and the Black Prince made it famous in war, and the farmers and traders made it famous in peace. In this reign we see clearly the advance of those men, the great English merchants, who have largely helped to make this country so rich and prosperous.

NOTE

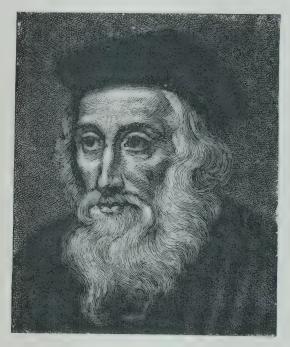
Independent, not needing help.

JOHN WYCLIFFE.

I. The Friars and the Pope.

- 1. John Wycliffe was a famous preacher and teacher who lived in the reigns of Edward the Third and the latter's grandson, Richard the Second. He was born about 1324 in a little village in Yorkshire. He studied at Oxford, and became one of the most learned men of his time.
- 2. We hear of him first as one speaking strongly against a body of men called the Begging Friars. These Begging Friars were priests, who were bound by their vows to travel about to serve the poor and the sick, and assist those who needed help or comfort.

3. The chief order of them was the Grey Friars; there were also the Black Friars and the White Friars. These names were given to them from the colour of the cloth of their gowns and hoods. The Begging Friars first became famous in England about 150 years before John Wycliffe's time, and all are



JOHN WYCLIFFE.

agreed that in the early days of these orders the ranks were filled by men of the most noble and devoted lives.

4. They were bound to live in poverty. They neither owned nor received on any account a single penny of money or of property in other form. They begged their bread. If they

lived together in a house they did not own the house. Someone held it in trust for them. It was their duty to preach and teach to the poorest, and they did this and much more.

5. They lived on the coarsest and commonest food; they sought out and helped the most wretched and miserable; they nursed the sick even when suffer-

ing from loathsome diseases, such as leprosy, then common in England; they were poor clothes of coarse cloth; they went barefoot among the snow and ice of winter; they fasted and prayed; they taught and preached and worked.

- 6. As they did all without a thought of gain, it is no wonder they soon won the love and confidence of the people. But in time the friars became spoiled. The men who did such noble work in the early days of the friars, Grey, and Black, and White, died, and the men who came after them, finding everyone so fond of them, took advantage of it for their own gain.
- 7. In spite of their vow of poverty, they gathered evealth, though they continued to dress plainly and pretend to look poor. In spite of their vow to beg their food and live only on the plainest and coarsest, they began to be as fond of a feast as other people; and, in short, by Wycliffe's day they had become lazy, greedy of pleasure, and dishonest.
- 8. John Wycliffe set himself to purify the Church and the times. He wrote tracts and sermons for people to read. But, above all, he set up a new order of men whom he called poor priests. These poor priests he chose from a rank able to meet and talk freely with the peasants in their own fashion.

These men went barefoot and were dressed in 'russet' clothes—that is, clothes made of undyed black wool.

- 9. The poor priests soon made their way to every corner of England. They lodged among the poor, walking from house to house and village to village, preaching and teaching. They were simple, hearty, earnest men, who gained the confidence and respect of the working classes, and before long, John Wycliffe's ideas were spread widely among the people.
- 10. Next, John Wycliffe attacked the Pope, the head of the Church to which the friars belonged. At that time the Pope had great authority in England. He could order the English clergy to send him money, and they dared not disobey. In this way the Pope drew from the Church in England actually five times as much money as the King received from the whole of the taxes raised in the kingdom.
- 11. And the worst of it all was that the Pope often used this money to help the enemies of England. Of course, the English people did not like this. They asked of what use it was to send out of their country money for the benefit of their enemies. Some of the chief men took John

Wycliffe's opinion on the point. They begged him to decide whether they had not the right to keep their money out of the Pope's hands, though they had no wish to put aside the Pope's authority.

NOTES.

Leprosy. In this disease the hands | the plague, largely from unhealthy and feet of those affected often rot | food and ways of living. from their bodies. It sprang, like

II. The Lollards.

- 1. John Wycliffe spoke out boldly, declaring that the Pope had no right to tax England for his own purposes. He said that, according to the Gospel, the Pope had no claim to anything but alms and free-will offerings. He called upon the Pope, the Bishops, and the wealthy clergy to put aside their fine clothes, to forego their splendid feasts, to spend their time no more in idle pleasure, but to work, and pray, and do their duty.
 - 2. These bold attacks made the Churchmen very angry against Wycliffe. Many of them felt the truth of his words, but, instead of trying to lead better lives, they only became furious against a man who dared to tell them of their wrongdoing.
 - 3. The Pope himself sent messages to England denouncing John Wycliffe and his teaching, and if

Wycliffe had not been protected by powerful friends he would have been thrown into prison.

- 4. All this time the poor priests had been very busy in every part of the country, until a great body of people had been brought to Wycliffe's way of thinking. The name of Lollards was fixed on the followers of Wycliffe, and they became so numerous that one of Wycliffe's enemies said: 'You cannot travel anywhere in England, but of every two men you meet in the road one of them will be a Lollard.'
- 5. These Lollards are heard of in English history for many years after Wycliffe's time. The Church people hated them bitterly, and about twenty-five years after Wycliffe's death a Lollard was burned at the stake for refusing to obey the Church. From that time the burning of the Lollards became much more frequent, as shown a century later, when we read of a bitter and dreadful jest of a witty Dutchman, named Erasmus. He said he hoped 'that either Lollardism or persecution would stop before winter, for it raised the price of firewood.'
- 6. However, in Wycliffe's own days his followers were meddled with by no one. The Churchmen were too busy trying to silence Wycliffe himself. In time they succeeded. He was driven from Oxford,

and retired to Lutterworth, of which place he was the Rector. Here he lived the rest of his days, writing books, teaching and preaching to his people, and busy with his translation of the Bible.

- 7. This was the first time the Bible had been turned into English. Before Wycliffe's time no one could read the Bible unless they understood Latin, in which tongue it was written. But now every man and woman who could read English could examine the Bible for themselves, and not depend upon what others told them of its contents.
- 8. John Wycliffe died in 1384, and was buried quietly in his own churchyard. But thirty years later his enemies were in power, and though they buld no longer punish him, yet they were determined to bring what disgrace they could upon his name. They resolved to turn his body out of consecrated ground.
- 9. His remains were dug up and burned, and the ashes flung into a little brook called the Swift, which runs past the village of Lutterworth. One clever old writer makes fine use of so mean and wicked an act. 'The brook,' he says, 'did convey his ashes to the Avon; Avon into Severn; Severn into the narrow seas; they into the main ocean; and thus the ashes of Wycliffe were an emblem of his

teaching, which is now scattered all the world over.'

NOTES.

Alms, gifts of charity.

Denouncing, speaking strongly against anyone.

Lollard. The word comes from the German lullen, to sing. The Lollards were hymn-singers. The

same word is in 'lullaby,' a cradle-song.

Persecution, making people suffer unjustly.

Consecrated, made holy.

Emblem, sign.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

'The Canterbury Tales.'

- 1. At the very time that Wycliffe was writing his translation of the Bible, another famous Englishman was writing poetry, poetry which is read to this day. His name was Geoffrey Chaucer, and he was the first great English poet.
- 2. He was a native of London, was born there about 1340, and, as a young man, was engaged in the service of the Court. He fought in the wars of Edward the Third in France, and was there taken prisoner in 1359. The King ransomed him, and he returned to England. He was sent abroad several times on missions to Italy and other countries, so that he was a man who had seen much of the world. He sat in Parliament as a member for Kent.
- 3. If we did not know from his history that Chaucer had mixed with all sorts of people, and seen

many kinds of life, we should be quite sure of it from his poems. There we find pictures drawn of every class of society, we see that he knew England through and through, from the King on the throne to the beggar in the ditch.

4. His greatest poem and best-known work is the 'Canterbury Tales.' In a former lesson we read of

Thomas Becket and the cruel death he died, and of how pilgrims gathered at his tomb from all parts of England.

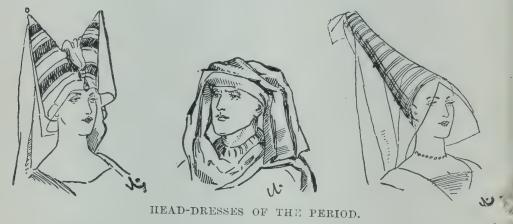
5. In Chaucer's day these pilgrimages were a great feature of English life. The most favourite place to which men went was the tomb of Thomas Becket, St.



GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

Thomas of England, at Canterbury. In his poem Chaucer describes how a company of pilgrims gathered at an inn, the Tabard, in London, and then rode to Canterbury together. On the way, to pass the time, they tell tales, and these form the 'Canterbury Tales.'

6. From this poem it is easy to gather much knowledge of his times, for he describes every pilgrim carefully, both how he looked and what he wore, and tells us what was his business in life. He takes care that no two pilgrims should be of the same rank and occupation, and so we get a picture of almost every kind of man or woman that lived and worked in England at that day.



- 7. He tells us of the knight and the squire, the man of law and the monk, the shipman and the reeve (farm-bailiff), the miller and the cook, the friar and the nun, the merchant and the franklin (rich farmer), the parson and the yeoman.
- 8. All these people and many others are described in the opening of the poem before they begin to tell their tales, and they agree that the pilgrim who tells the best tale shall be treated to a fine supper, to be paid for by the rest.

9. Chaucer lived during the reigns of three Kings, Edward the Third, Richard the Second, and Henry the Fourth. He seems to have been a prosperous man until 1391, when he lost an office he held under the King. For some years he was in difficulties, for we read of him applying to the King's Treasurer for the advance of so small a sum as 6s. 8d. But when Henry the Fourth came to the throne in 1399 all was well with him again, for Henry was his friend.

10. However, he lived but one year longer, dying in 1400. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, where his tomb is still to be seen in Poets' Corner.

NOTES.

Ransom, a sum of money paid to | Prosperous, well-to-do, rich.

HENRY THE FIFTH.

- I. The March through France.
- 1. In the early part of the Hundred Years' War we have seen a great warrior, King Edward the Third, assisted by his famous son, the Black Prince, overrunning France and winning battles against heavy odds. And in the latter part of the same war another English King comes forward to perform deeds as mighty.
 - 2. This was Henry the Fifth, son of Chaucer's

friend and master, Henry the Fourth. He was twenty-six years of age when he came to the throne, and many people wondered how he would behave himself, and what sort of King he would make.

3. For Henry had been very wild as a young man. He was known as Madcap Hal. He gathered



HENRY THE FIFTH.

about him a band of riotous companions who helped him in all kinds of wild frolics. When one of his followers was being tried before the Chief Justice for some wrong doing, Prince Henry came into the court and demanded that the prisoner should be set free. The judge re-

fused, saying that it was his duty to see that the law ran its proper course. Henry became very angry, and went so far as to strike the judge in the face with his fist. The judge at once sent the Prince to prison for contempt of court. Then was shown a sign of the good sense that underlay

Henry's wildness. The Prince saw that he had gone too far, and he submitted quietly to the sentence.

- 4. When he came to the throne, the wild youth seemed to turn at once to a quiet, sensible man. He dismissed all his old companions, giving them presents, but forbidding them to come within ten miles of his Court. He took the wise advisers of his father into high favour, and showed in everything that he wished to carry out properly the duties of his new position.
- 5. Soon after he came to the throne he began to bush forward again the war with France. He brought up once more the claim of Edward the Third to the brone of France. This claim, as we have seen, was bad when Edward put it forward. It was far worse as regards Henry the Fifth; for the latter was not the true heir of Edward the Third, Henry the Fourth having seized the crown by force.
- 6. The truth is that any reason was good enough in those days for a war between England and France. All classes of the English people were lelighted at such a war. The nobles, who lived a very dull life in their country-houses, without news, without books, without society, sprang with oy to take a share in such lively and exciting work.

They also hoped to win much gold by capturing French lords and holding them to ransom. The lower classes of the army, the men-at-arms and archers, dreamt of plunder when French towns were taken, so that Henry had no difficulty in gathering an army.

- 7. In the year 1415, Henry crossed over to France with an army of 30,000 men, and laid siege to Harfleur, a town at the mouth of the Seine. It took him five weeks to capture it, and during this time his army suffered very severely from sickness So many men died, that when the town was captured and an English garrison put into it, Henry had only 15,000 men left, half of the number that had landed from England a few weeks before. With these men Henry determined to march to Calais, and he set out.
- 8. A dreadful march it was. Sickness broke out again, and hundreds of men died. Hundreds more were left by the way, too weak to travel. The rest of the army dared not stay. They had very little food, and they must push on to Calais quickly or starve on the road.
- 9. They had hoped to get provisions from the countryside as they marched. But the country people fled from the path of the English army,

carrying with them every scrap of food, and leaving the land naked. Such was the distress of Henry's troops, that many of them were driven to feed upon the nuts, now ripe among the hedgerows, for it was October.

10. They were within forty-five miles of Calais, when a great French army overtook them and barred their road. Of the English there were but some 6,000 left, and these sick and half starved. The French were ten times as many, with plenty of food and wine. The English made ready for battle, and Henry placed his men in a narrow field, where strong thickets on either side prevented the French horsemen from attacking them except in front.

II. The Battle of Agincourt.

- 1. Early the next morning the English woke and took their places. Before the battle every man knelt down while prayers were read, and then each put a small piece of earth in his mouth in solemn token that of dust he was formed and to dust he must soon return.
- 2. Next they sprang to their feet, handled their weapons, and waited for the French. Henry had but 900 men-at-arms under his command. But he had 5,000 archers, those noble bowmen who were

the mainstay of an English battle throughout the Middle Ages.

- 3. These he placed in the form of a wedge on a sloping piece of ground, so that every man could loose his shafts freely over the heads of his comrades in front. Every archer was furnished with a stout stick which bore a sharp iron point at either end. These stakes were to be driven into the ground to form a hedge of keen iron points upon which the French horsemen would run, if they tried to ride down the archers.
- 4. For some hours the English waited for the French attack. But the French, despite their vast numbers, would not come on. Henry grew tired of this, and at length determined to fling his tiny army of footmen against the great host of mail-clad horsemen. The English archers, with loud hurrahs, sprang from the shelter of their stakes, left them standing, and ran forward against the French knights.
- 5. As soon as they came within bowshot, they let fly their arrows thick and fast upon the close-packed ranks of the French horsemen. The latter, unable to endure the 'iron sleet,' put spurs to their horses and galloped at the English bowmen.
 - 6. Now, Henry had so cleverly chosen his position



that the ground in front of the French was newly ploughed, soft, and muddy. In this soft earth the heavy war-horses plunged deeply, and many of them stuck fast. All the time the deadly English arrows were pouring upon them thicker and faster. The wounded horses refused to go forward. Turning back from the arrows, they dashed through the French ranks, causing the utmost confusion. The enemy became thrown into one tangled mass of struggling men and horses.

- 7. The archers saw their chance. They slung their bows on their backs, and rushed forward with sword and battle-axe and bill—an axe set on a pole. The French knights, too closely packed together to use their weapons with freedom, fell before them as corn falls before a reaper.
- 8. Henry, wearing a kingly crown upon his helmet, was ever at the forefront of the fight. His crown was broken by a sword-cut, his helmet and shield were dented and marked by the furious strokes aimed at him, but he came off in safety. Three hours of fierce battle proved enough to gain a complete victory, won against tremendous odds.
- 9. Ten thousand French lay dead upon the field, among them the Constable of France, seven French

Princes, and more than 100 great nobles. The English loss was but a few hundred. Once again the peasant had matched himself against the noble with all his advantage of armour and steed, and once again had proved the conqueror.

10. This battle is called the Battle of Agincourt, from the name of a neighbouring castle. Henry went on to Calais and crossed over to England. The news of such a famous victory had excited everyone at home beyond all bounds. At Dover the people rushed into the sea to meet their returning friends, and Henry was carried in triumph from his vessel to the shore.

NOTES.

Mail - clad, covered with steel | Constable of France, the head of the French army.

III. The King dies.

- 1. Two years after the victory of Agincourt, Henry returned to France and made himself master of Normandy. The last city to surrender was Rouen, the capital of the province. It was held bravely by the French for six months, but at last hunger compelled them to give the town up.
- 2. Henry built a palace in Rouen, and held his Court there. The French now had no hope of driving Henry out of their country, so a very important

treaty was made between them and the English King—the Treaty of Troyes (1420).

- 3. By this treaty it was agreed that Henry should marry Princess Catherine, the daughter of the French King, and that upon the King's death Henry should succeed to the crown of France. He was also to rule France meanwhile in the name of the King, for the latter was out of his mind and unable to govern his kingdom.
- 4. But the French King had a son as well as a daughter, and the son was not willing to agree that Henry should take the crown. He expected to wear it himself when his father should die, and he gathered an army to support his claims.
- 5. Henry married Princess Catherine, and then marched towards Paris, taking town after town upon the way. In the beginning of 1421 Henry and his Queen returned to England, where they were received with great joy. After the Queen had been crowned in London with great splendour, she and Henry took a journey through England to visit their subjects.
- 6. While on this journey Henry heard dreadful news. His brother, whom he had left to see after affairs in France, had been defeated and slain by the Dauphin, as the heir to the French crown was called.

The battle was won chiefly by the aid of a body of Scottish soldiers who had crossed over the sea to help the French.

- 7. Henry saw that he must go to France to look after things himself, or the English cause would be lost. He gathered a new army, and went over to France for the third time, and as soon as he appeared all went well with the English. He captured towns, won battles, and the Dauphin soon had to fly before him.
- 8. Then Henry fell ill. At first he hoped he would soon be better, and he had himself carried in a litter, from which he gave his orders. But soon he grew much worse. He was borne to a castle near Paris, and there died a month later.
- 9. He was only thirty-three years old, yet he had reached the height of power and fame. His death was bitterly mourned by his own people, and even the French, as the great funeral train bearing his body back to England moved towards Calais, looked upon the procession with respect. For Henry had been a great captain. He had kept his troops in the strictest order. They had marched through a hostile country without plundering, without burning, without harming those who did not harm them. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, and there

may be seen to this day his saddle and his helmet, the latter dented with the blows of French swords.

10. He left a son, a baby of about eight months old, who became Henry the Sixth, and during whose reign everything which Henry the Fifth had won in France was entirely lost.

NOTES.

Treaty, an agreement between two countries.

Dauphin. He afterwards became King of France as Charles the Seventh. Litter, a carriage without wheels, shaped like a bed, and slung between two horses.

THE KING-MAKER.

I. A Great Earl.

- 1. As a rule, the King is the most powerful man in a country. But this has not always been so in England. If we look back into English history, we shall find that often in old times a great noble was as strong as the King, and could defy him easily.
- 2. This was rendered possible by the fact that a powerful and wealthy man had an army of his own, formed from the men who lived on his estate or were in his pay. These men were called retainers.
- 3. Nowadays, the only soldiers in our country are the soldiers of the King. In former times, every noble who could afford it had a band of armed men

in his service ready to fight in his quarrels. The last and the greatest of these nobles was Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick, the King-maker. He won this name because in his time there was much fighting between rival Kings for the throne of England, and they rose or fell accordingly as Warwick helped one side or the other.

- 4. He was a man of enormous wealth and vast estates. He held many great offices. His different castles, scattered about England, were guarded by 30,000 retainers. He could raise a great army instantly by calling on his tenants and followers. When he travelled he was attended by 600 well-armed men. His household was such that six oxen served but as the meat for a single breakfast.
- 5. This mighty Earl took a great share in the Wars of the Roses (1455-1471). These wars sprang from a quarrel between the two great houses of York and Lancaster. The Yorkists wore a White Rose as a badge, the Lancastrians a Red Rose.
- 6. At the time the Wars of the Roses began, the King was Henry the Sixth, who belonged to the House of Lancaster. He became insane, and it was proposed to place Richard, Duke of York, head of the House of York, on the throne. But Henry had a son, and his wife Margaret, a woman of proud and

fiery temper, was determined to uphold her son's claim. She was supported by the Lancastrians, and for many years there was terrible fighting between the two houses and their friends.

- 7. The Earl of Warwick was a stout Yorkist for a long time. He fought hard for Richard, Duke of York, and when that nobleman was killed in battle, he assisted Edward, the dead Duke's son. After many fierce battles, Henry the Sixth was removed from the throne and shut up in the Tower of London. Edward was crowned in his place as Edward the Fourth (1461).
- 8. Warwick expected that the young King would follow his advice in all things, and that practically he would manage the country. But Edward offended Warwick by marrying a lady of somewhat humble rank, and this without taking counsel with his powerful supporter. Soon the Queen's friends were put into high offices which Warwick had intended that his friends should fill, and the great nobleman became bitterly angered.
- 9. He set on foot a rising against Edward the Fourth, but at first it was unsuccessful, and Warwick had to leave the country. Soon he returned, and now the people flocked to his standard

in such numbers that King Edward was obliged to fly for his life to France.

NOTES.

Insane, out of his mind.

Taking counsel, asking the advice of anyone.

II. The Wars of the Roses.

1. Warwick was now completely master of the kingdom. He brought King Henry out of the Tower and placed him once more on the throne,

thus making and unmaking Kings at his pleasure. But in the next year Edward returned with a small army. His friends gathered about him, and he met Warwick at Barnet, near London (1471).

2. The battle was fought on Easter Sunday. At daybreak there was a heavy fog. But the two armies closed upon each other, and a desperate struggle began; the arrows flew and the strokes of the swords



flew, and the strokes of the swords KNIGHT IN ARMOUR. rang on the steel armour. Warwick's own followers on the right dashed the Yorkist left wing to pieces. They swung round, pursuing the flying Yorkists, and came upon a large body of their friends, commanded by the Earl of Oxford.

- 3. And now, in the thick fog, a great mistake was made. Oxford's men wore a star as a badge; King Edward's men wore a sun. Warwick's men mistook the star for the sun, and fired upon Oxford's troops. The latter, receiving shot from men they thought to be friends, now fancied they were betrayed. They cried out 'Treason!' and fled from the fight. This lost Warwick the battle.
- 4. Edward's main army stood firm, and made a stout attack on the Earl's troops. For six hours the battle was furious. The King-maker himself was in the thick of the fray, fighting on foot amidst his men. But in the end he was slain, and his brother by his side. Upon this, his followers gave way and fled, leaving their great master and 7,000 of their companions dead upon the field. The King-maker's body was carried to London, and exposed to the view of the people at St. Paul's to convince all that he was dead, and Edward at last the victor.
- 5. This battle was the last but one in the Wars of the Roses. A week or two later was fought the Battle of Tewkesbury (1471), when Edward utterly crushed the last hopes of the Lancastrians, capturing Margaret and killing her son. A short time afterwards it was said that King Henry had died in the Tower. It is possible that he was murdered in order

to leave the Lancastrians no one for whom they could fight.

- 6. The Wars of the Roses are in some ways very strange and in others very important. They are strange in this, that, though dreadful battles were fought up and down the country, yet the people in general took no part in the war, and, indeed, paid very little heed to it. The merchants, the farmers, the tradesmen, went on with their quiet, everyday tasks as if the country lay in a profound peace.
- 7. Very often in war, and particularly in those days, the people who took no part in the fighting suffered worse than anyone: their houses were burned down, their goods were taken from them; they were often slain. But in the Wars of the Roses the harm fell entirely on the combatants. Those who made the war suffered by the war. It was, in truth, a war of the nobles alone. The two great houses gathered their friends about them and fought the quarrel out, doing much mischief to themselves and their followers, but little to the country at large.
 - 8. These wars, again, are important because in them almost all the great nobles of the day were killed. Not only were many slain in fight, but those who were captured by their enemies were put

to death, so savage was the hatred between White Rose and Red Rose.

- 9. The death of these powerful men was a gain to law and order. Many of them had used their greatstrength to evil ends. With their bands of armed retainers they would oppress the people who lived near their castles, and defy justice.
- 10. Before the Wars of the Roses we often hear of Barons so powerful that they set themselves above the law and did what they pleased, no matter how wrong and unjust; but not afterwards: the dreadful slaughter made among them broke their power for ever.
- 11. No man in England save the King ever again reached the pitch of authority held by the King-maker. He was the last who led a great army of his own, the last subject whose power the King feared as greater than that of the Crown.

NOTES.

Tewkesbury, a market town on the Upper Avon near its junction with the Severn.

WILLIAM CAXTON.

I. The First English Printer.

1. It is only a little more than 400 years since a printed book was a great wonder in England.

If you had lived in the year 1470, you would have thought such a book as this you are now reading a very wonderful thing.

2. In the many hundreds of years before that time all the books in England were written, not printed. There were men who spent their whole time in writing copies of books. Of course, such

Perhaps one of those books had taken a man six months to write. So his wages for six months had to come out of the price of the book. Only the rich could afford to buy hand-written books.

3. But at last a clever man hit upon the idea of cutting the



WILLIAM CAXTON.

etters separately upon the ends of wooden blocks, and setting together the blocks to make up words and lines, till a page was ready. Next he rubbed ink on the faces of the blocks, and pressed a sheet of paper on them. Now he had a printed page.

4. This was a great deal faster than anyone could

write, because after the blocks were once set in order he had only to rub fresh ink on them to take off as many pages as he pleased.

- 5. It was about the year 1430 that this was discovered, and the first printing was done in Holland. It was in 1470 that the printing-press first made its appearance in England. It was introduced by an English tradesman named William Caxton, a Kentish man, born about 1420.
- 6. As a young man Caxton came to London and served in the shop of a mercer, a man who sold woollen goods. After his master died, Caxton set up in business for himself. At that time there was a great trade in wool between England and the town of Bruges, in Belgium. Caxton went over to Belgium and settled at Bruges, living there many years and thriving well.
- 7. The great lady of Bruges was the Duchess of Burgundy. She had been an English Princess, Margaret, sister of Edward the Fourth. She was very friendly with the English, her countrymen, living in Bruges, and knew Caxton well.
- 8. One day she heard that Caxton was translating into English a French poem called 'The History of Troy.' She wished to hear it, and Caxton read the work to her as he went along. When the poem was

finished, she wished for some copies of it to send to her friends in England.

- 9. Caxton saw what a great task it would be to sopy out a whole book by hand time after time, so he went to some Dutch printers who were living in Bruges. From these people he learned to print, and before long he had printed copies of his poem, which thus became the first book ever printed in English.
- 10. He was now a man fifty years old, a time of life when few people set up a new trade. But Caxton turned printer, and soon crossed over to England with his press. He began to work in Westminster, near the Abbey, and there many people flocked to see this wonderful new plan of producing books. The King himself, Edward the Fourth, visited Caxton's workshop and watched the printers at their task.

II. The Importance of Printing.

- 1. For twenty-one years William Caxton continued to print books in English, his death taking place in 1491. During this time he printed nearly 100 books. Twenty-one of the books were from his two pen, translations made from the French and the Dutch.
 - 2. The discovery of printing is one of the great

inventions of the world. Think how different everything would be if we had no books and no newspapers. How empty our lives would be if the pleasure of reading were suddenly taken from us! It is perfectly true that there were reading and pleasure from books before the time of the printing-press, but not for all, as to-day. Books were scarce and costly, and for that very reason the power of being able to read was not common.

- 3. The invention of printing, by making books cheap and plentiful, has given chances to many thousands to gain knowledge. The poorest among us may buy books if they wish. For a few pence they can obtain what would have cost many pounds 500 years ago.
- 4. Then, knowledge was only for the rich or for those who belonged to the Church. Now, it is possible for everyone to secure a good education. Let them but learn to read and write, and then the good books of all ages are open to them—books which the printing-press has put within the reach of every class.
- 5. Some of the books which William Caxton printed are still to be seen. They look, of course, very different from ours. The letters are shaped oddly, as we should think, the lines are not so

regular, the page is not so clear. It is natural that things should improve in 400 years, and Caxton, were he alive to-day, would wonder as much at modern printing-machines as the people in his day wondered at his press.

6. Where he worked by hand, printing off a book slowly sheet by sheet, modern printers work by steam, turning out sheets at a great pace. There

are newspapers which are printed at the rate of more than 20,000 copies per hour.

modern machine is only a caxton's printing: from the quicker and cleverer form of

Neuertheles. na generacion and 7. But the finest and most And the meup

Caxton's clumsy press, just as the bills which we see on every wall and hoarding are the modern form of the big placards which Caxton printed and set about, inviting buyers to his storeroom.

8. One of these old bills is still preserved in a college at Oxford. It bids people come to the Reed Pale, Caxton's workshop in Westminster, to see his work and buy his books.

NOTE.

Invention, something found out.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.

I. Wolsey and the King.

1. In 1471 there was born in the town of Ipswichin Suffolk a boy who was named Thomas Wolsey. His father was a well-to-do butcher, and the boy received a good education. He proved so clever



CARDINAL WOLSEY.

that when he was sent to the University of Oxford he passed very difficult examinations when he was only fourteen years old. He thus won the degree which is called Bache-lor of Arts, and he was known as 'the Boy Bachelor.'

2. He entered the Church, and gained the

notice of King Henry the Seventh, who used him as a messenger to go on important business abroad. But it was in the reign of the son of Henry the Seventh that Wolsey rose to his full power and dignity.

3. Thomas Wolsey was forty years old when Henry the Eighth came to the throne in 1509.

long before Henry the Eighth and Wolsey were the closest friends. Much of this was owing to the clever way Wolsey had of suiting himself entirely to the King's temper. If Henry were in a gay mood, wishing to be amused, there was no one more lively and cheerful than Wolsey, no one more ready to find some sport or pastime to please the King.

The young King was only eighteen. It was not

- 4. But perhaps Henry was in a thoughtful mood, and ready to attend to business. Then no one was so well able as Wolsey to advise him, and help him in the difficult task of government.
- 5. It is no wonder that Henry thought a great deal of a man who was useful to him every way he turned, and Wolsey grew into very high favour. He was made Archbishop of York, and the next
- He was made Archbishop of York, and the next year, in 1515, the Pope made him a Cardinal. A Cardinal is one of the chief men in the Roman Catholic Church. There is no higher office except that of the Pope himself.

 6. In England Wolsey was second only to the
- King; and sometimes he seemed to be equal to the King. There are still treaties to be seen where the name of Wolsey is written beside that of Library the Eighth, as if the great Cardinal were not a subject, but a King himself.

U.DC No:

Date;

- 7. He had the management of all the foreign affairs of the country. He lived in great splendour. His palaces were filled with crowds of servants; among his attendants were hundreds of nobles and knights; and the King kept no greater state than Cardinal Wolsey. Here is a picture which one writer gives of the fashion in which Wolsey went on a journey:
- 8. 'His train amounted to a thousand, of whom the gentlemen marched out of London in ranks of three, in black velvet coats, with gold chains about their necks, while his yeomen and their servants were in orange-tawny coats, with T. C., for Thomas, Cardinal, embroidered upon them. Before him were carried his two silver crosses and two silver pillars. The Great Seal, his Cardinal's hat, and a scarlet bag embroidered with gold, each also had a sealman to carry it; and the Cardinal himself rode in splendid robes, with a spare horse and mule led behind him trapped with scarlet and gold; while messengers were sent before, to prepare quarters for all this train.'
- 9. So great was his power that rulers of other countries tried to gain his friendship, in order that he might persuade Henry to help them. At that time Charles, the Emperor of Germany, and

Francis, the King of France, were great enemies, and each was anxious to gain the support of the King of England. So both Charles and Francis gave Wolsey large sums of money to win him over.

10. In 1520 it was agreed that Henry should go to France and meet Francis the First near Calais. Wolsey, of course, was with the King, and took a great share in the fine doings which went on there. For



HEAD-DRESSES OF THE PERIOD.

a fortnight there was a constant round of sporting, and feasting, and merry-making. So splendid were the dresses worn by the two Kings and the wealthy nobles who accompanied them, and so grand were the silken tents in which they lived, that this meeting is known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

11. Cardinal Wolsey had 800 followers, and large numbers of these were dressed in crimson velvet,

and wore gold chains about their necks. In all the accounts and pictures of the splendid scene which have come down to us he is represented as the chief man there after the two Kings.

12. Many of the nobles who followed their masters to the Field of the Cloth of Gold utterly ruined themselves, spending all their money on the rich and costly dresses they wore and the expensive feasts they gave.

NOTES.

Great Seal. This was the token | Cardinal's hat, a scarlet hat of a of his office of Lord High Chancellor. Trapped, decked.

peculiar shape, worn only by Cardinals.

II. Wolsey wishes to be Pope.

- 1. We can easily understand that Cardinal Wolsey was not a favourite with the great nobles. They were very jealous of him. They were angry at the idea of a poor boy rising from an Ipswich street to be the second man in England, holding a position high above their heads. They mocked him, and called him 'the Butcher's Dog.'
- 2. On the other hand, the people were delighted. They saw a man rise from their own ranks to rule over the country in the name of the King, and havenobles and barons for his attendants. It pleased them because he sprang from themselves.

- 3. Wolsey was very rich, and, though he spent so much in keeping up grand palaces and great trains of servants, his money did not all go in show. He founded a grammar-school in Ipswich, which exists at the present time. He built a great college at Oxford, which was first named Cardinal College in his honour, and is now called Christ Church. He gave much money to the poor. He helped scholars who were in need. He invited famous teachers to come to England.
- 4. Anyone would think that he was now satisfied with his great position, his immense wealth, his wide authority. But he was not. He wanted one thing more. He wished to be Pope. He had risen to far in the world that he had only that last step from Cardinal to Pope left, and then he would be at the very top of the tree. He tried to take this step, and it led to his ruin. He fell from his high estate, and great was his fall.
- 5. To understand how it came about, we must ecall to mind the two Sovereigns who tried to get Volsey's good word with Henry: Charles, Emperor f Germany, and Francis, King of France. They were the two most powerful Sovereigns of Europe, and Wolsey hoped to become Pope by their aid. He balanced between them for awhile, and then he

began to think there was not much chance of getting help from Charles, so he persuaded Henry to become more friendly with Francis.

- 6. But while Wolsey was working and planning to become Pope, a thing happened which upset all his plans. Henry the Eighth was married to a wife older than himself, and he became tired of her, and wished to put her away. This was a very wrong thing, for Queen Catharine had been a good and faithful wife. But Henry was a cruel and obstinate man, and was bent on having his own way. More, he had already fallen in love with a young lady, named Anne Boleyn, and wished to marry her.
- 7. Now, Catharine had been married to Henry's brother Arthur at first. Then Arthur died and she married Henry. Henry said it was not a proper marriage, and he wished to have it broken. This was nothing but an excuse. However, Henry was determined to break the marriage, and he sent Wolsey to the Pope to get leave to do so. For at that day no one but the Pope had power to do such a thing.
- 8. Wolsey went to Rome to obtain the Pope's consent, and found the task beyond his ability. The Pope might have been willing to please King Henry, but he was very much afraid of Charles, Emperor

of Germany. Charles was the nephew of Queen Catharine, and was already very angry at the idea of Henry putting away his aunt. So Wolsey could not get the Pope to do anything which would offend the Emperor Charles.

- 9. At last the Pope said he would appoint two judges to try the case, and named Wolsey himself and another Cardinal from Italy. They held an inquiry into the matter for two months in London, but Queen Catharine would have nothing to do with the court.
- 10. Henry began to get angry. He loved his own way, and he loved to have it quickly. Next the Pope stopped the court in London, and ordered King Henry and Queen Catharine to come before him at Rome.

III. Wolsey's Fall.

- 1. Henry understood what this call to Rome meant. It showed plainly that the Pope was trying to put an end to the matter without openly saying so. The King saw that he would get no help from Rome in breaking the marriage.
- 2. Henry flew into a furious rage with Wolsey. He laid all the blame for the failure upon the Cardinal's shoulders, and Henry was a man who

could be a terrible enemy. He was very cold-blooded and cruel. Anne Boleyn and her friends, too, helped to make Henry more angry still. They were eager for the old marriage to be broken, in order that Anne might marry the King, and they wanted to drive Wolsey from the Court.

- 3. In 1529 Wolsey was dismissed from the Court, and many of his great offices were taken from him. A heavy fine was laid upon him for having acted as the Pope's Legate in England—that is, acting on behalf of the Pope. It is true that the English law forbade the Pope to have any authority in England, but Wolsey had held the office with Henry's full permission. But Henry cared nothing for that when he wished to punish the Cardinal.
- 4. Wolsey tried to soften the King by giving up to him the splendid palaces, the fine estates, and the great wealth he possessed. Henry took them, but showed no more favour to the fallen man on that account. Among other places, Wolsey gave to the King the beautiful palace of Hampton Court, which stands a few miles out of London.
- 5. Wolsey found not a friend to help him. In the days of his pride he had made many enemies, and these now rose against him. Those whom he had helped, and who had seemed his friends, now deserted

- him. Parliament took the side of the King, and passed a severe sentence upon Wolsey, ordering him to be sent to prison, and that everything he owned should be taken from him.
- 6. Wolsey, however, did not go to prison. The King forgave him that part of the punishment, and ordered him to go to York. The Cardinal went at once. All his great state had departed from him swiftly. His fall was sudden and terrible. From the mightiest subject in England he had sunk into a man upon whom all looked down. Well might he say, 'Put not your trust in Princes.'
- 7. He was still Archbishop of York. That office had not been taken from him, and in the North there were many who loved him, for he had been kind to his clergy. They gave him so warm a welcome when he arrived among them, that some of his enemies became alarmed, thinking his power had not all gone. These men persuaded Henry that so clever a man as Wolsey, aided by many friends, would work some mischief yet, and the King's anger was stirred up anew.
- 8. One day Wolsey was sitting in a house near York, when he was told that the Earl of Northumberland had arrived from Court. The Cardinal looked eagerly for the Earl to come in, hoping that perhaps

the master whom he had served so well had forgiven him and restored him to favour.

9. The Earl of Northumberland came in, but his face was greatly troubled. He stepped up to Wolsey and placed a hand on his shoulder. He spoke, and his voice was filled with sadness, for he had known the Cardinal in all his greatness.

'My Lord Cardinal,' he said, 'I arrest you on a

charge of high treason.'

10. Wolsey was thunderstruck. He was charged with treason, treason to a King whom he had served heart and soul. This was the worst blow of his un-

happy fall.

11. The Earl had orders to carry him to London. Hardly able to sit straight upon his mule, for he was very ill, Wolsey rode south. As they travelled he grew worse and worse. He reached the gates of Leicester Abbey, where the monks received him kindly, and bore him in and tended him carefully. Wolsey knew his end had come. He said to the Abbot, 'Father, I am come to lay my bones among you.'

12. The words were true: there he died on November 29, 1530. He was sixty years old. He was the last great Churchman of the Romish faith who held power in England. Soon after his death

the authority of the Pope in England was destroyed. His last words were very sad and touching. They were spoken to his faithful servant, Thomas Cromwell, and are thus given by Shakespeare:

'O Cromwell, Cromwell, Had I but served my God with half the zeal I served my King, He would not in mine age Have left me naked to mine enemies.'

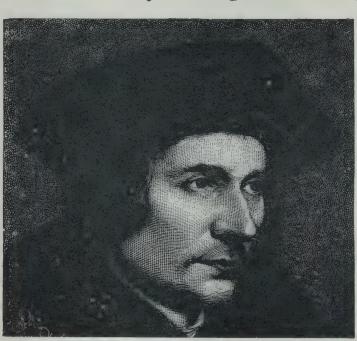
SIR THOMAS MORE.

I. A Famous Lawyer.

- 1. This great man was born in London in the year 1480. His father was a judge, and young More was trained for the law. As a boy he was a pige in the household of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was a custom in those days that a great man should receive boys of good birth into his house, where they waited upon him and learned the manners of good society.
- 2. So much did Thomas More please the Archbishop with his wit and cleverness, that his master declared he would 'prove a marvellous man.' He studied at the University of Oxford, and afterwards became a lawyer. It was not long before he was known as one of the ablest lawyers in England, and one of the most just; for he would never take up a

case which he knew was wrong. He always did his best for widows, orphans, or the poor, and would take no pay from them.

3. He was a famous man in the time of Cardina Wolsey, of whom we read last. Indeed, Wolse and he were the two most famous figures at the Court of Henry the Eighth. Henry was very for



SIR THOMAS MORE.

of More. None could help being fond of him, he was a gentle, so witty so wise. Henry very often in vited him of dinner on purpose to hear his clever, pleasantalk.

4. Sometime

the King would go to Chelsea, where Sir Thomalived, and walk with him in his garden, and Henry as they rambled about the walks, talking an laughing, would throw his arm about More's neck Yet Sir Thomas understood his cruel and fickly master perfectly well. One day someone asked

him if he did not feel it a great honour to receive so much favour from the King.

'The King is my very good master,' he replied quietly, 'but if my head would win him a castle in France it would not fail to be struck off my shoulders.'

- 5. In this home of his at Chelsea, Thomas More and his children lived very happily together. In those days it was the rule to treat children very harshly. They were not allowed to sit down in the presence of their parents, not to speak unless they had permission, and often for slight faults were whipped until the blood ran.
- 6. But with Sir Thomas and his children it was faite different. They talked together, laughed together, played together. When he was from home he wrote them the merriest letters, yet full of wise advice. His favourite daughter was named Margaret, and she and her father were the closest of friends.
- 7. Sir Thomas rose steadily in the King's favour. When Wolsey lost power and fell into disgrace, More was chosen to succeed him in the great office of Lord High Chancellor. This made him the chief judge in England. His father, an old man of near ninety, was still alive, and sat as a judge in a

lower court. And to this court More went every morning, and there, kneeling, asked his father's blessing before going to his own greater place.

NOTE.

Fickle, changeable.

II. More offends the King.

- 1. And now the same difficulty which brought about the downfall of Wolsey also brought much trouble to Sir Thomas More. Wolsey failed to obtain the Pope's consent to break off Henry's marriage with Catharine, and so displeased the King. Sir Thomas More thought it wrong to try to break the marriage, and this soon got him into disgrace also.
- 2. It is true that Henry put Catharine away and married Anne Boleyn, and the manner in which he did it set the King and Sir Thomas More farther apart still. Henry was so obstinate and so set upon having his own way that, when he saw he could not obtain what he wished from the Pope, he determined to destroy the Pope's power in England. Then he would never need to beg the Pope's consent to anything, but be able to do just as he pleased.
- 3. So he declared that he was the Head of the Church in England, instead of the Pope. This was

agreed to by Parliament, and ever since Henry's time the English Sovereign has also been Head of the English Church. Nowadays we are used to the idea; but then it seemed very new and strange, and many people would not consent to accept it.

- 4. Among these people was Sir Thomas More. He was a very strict Roman Catholic, and he believed that the Pope was the real Head, and must remain so. It was not long before the King discovered the opinions he held. Henry resolved that every man in high office should take the Oath of Supremacy. By this oath they acknowledged that Henry was the Supreme Head of the English Church. Sir Thomas refused. He did not believe that the King had the power to take such a position, and he would not swear to a lie.
- 5. Henry's anger flamed up against him, and Sir Thomas was tried for treason. He was brought before the judges, and false witnesses were employed to bring charges against him. All broke down. It could not be proved that he had said or done anything wrong. But the judges wished to please the King, so they condemned Sir Thomas to death for treason.
- 6. More returned to the Tower calm and cheerful. He had already spent nearly twelve months in

prison because he had offended Henry over the marriage with Anne Boleyn. His great offices had been taken from him, he had been stripped of all his goods, his wife and children were separated from him. Yet his old, sunny good-humour, his wit, his pleasant talk, never forsook him.

- 7. A few days after the trial, at daybreak one morning, Sir Thomas More was awakened by a messenger who entered his cell. The man announced to him that Henry had ordered his head to be struck off at nine o'clock that morning.
- 8. Sir Thomas received the news with perfect calmness. It was the custom for the headsman to have the clothes of the people he beheaded, so Sir Thomas More, to show that he bore the man no ill-will, put on his richest suit. He was persuaded to take it off and put on plainer clothes. He did so, but sent the man a piece of gold that he might be no loser by the change.
- 9. About nine o'clock he was brought out of the Tower to the place where the scaffold was ready. On the scaffold stood the block upon which he was to lay his head. Beside the block was the headsman with his bright, sharp axe.
- 10. A great crowd of people had gathered to see More die, and they scarcely knew him at first, so



THE EXECUTION OF SIR THOMAS MORE.

much was he altered by his imprisonment. He had become thin and bent and old; his beard was long; his face was worn and pale.

- 11. He began to speak to the people, but he was stopped at once, by order of the King. Henry did not dare to let that great and good man, the best and wisest in all England, make a dying speech. His words, perchance, falling deeply into the hearts of the people, might breed trouble at a future day.
- 12. Sir Thomas became silent at once. He was obedience itself to the last, save in those things which he put higher than any earthly King. He stepped upon the ladder which led up to the scaffold. It had been set in place carelessly, and shook under him. A flash of his old wit burst out, 'See me safe up,' said he to a bystander. 'For my coming down I can shift for myself.'
- 13. He asked the prayers of the people, and declared that he died in the Roman Catholic faith, and a faithful servant of God and the King. The headsman asked More's pardon for the deed he was about to do. Sir Thomas gave it freely. 'Thou art to do me the greatest benefit that I can receive,' he said. 'Pluck up thy spirit, man, and be not afraid to do thine office. My neck is very short. Take heed that thou strike not awry, and so shame thy skill.'

- 14. He knelt down and laid his head upon the block. The axe shone above his neck, and was about to fall, when he raised his hand to check the headsman. Then he drew his beard out of the way of the axe. 'Pity that should be cut,' he said softly; 'that has not committed treason.' With this strange jest upon his lips died the most famous speaker and statesman of his day.
- 15. After his death his head was set up on a spike on London Bridge, but his daughter Margaret never rested till she had it down and had given it decent burial.

NOTE.

Awry, crooked or slantwise.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

I. The New World.

- 1. To-day there is no land outside our own which is so familiar to us as America. Throughout the northern half of that vast continent our language is spoken. Every day steamers arrive from it, carrying passengers, goods, letters. The intercourse is great and constant.
- 2. Yet a little more than 400 years ago no one in England believed that such a land existed. The sailors of that day never steered westwards from

Land's End. They crept south along the shores of France and Spain, and so into the Mediterranean, or round the coast of Africa. They believed that the world was flat, and that if they struck out into the



SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

stormy Atlantic they would come to the end of it, and fall over into some dreadful abyss.

3. These notions were destroyed by a great sailor

named Christopher Columbus, a Genoese, who sailed westwards in vessels furnished by the King and Queen of Spain. In 1492 he crossed the Atlantic and discovered islands on the coast of America. In 1497 a Bristol ship manned by Bristol sailors discovered the mainland.

- 4. During the next hundred years the knowledge of the New World, as it was called, advanced rapidly. The Spaniards took the lead, and set up their rule over wide tracts. They discovered that parts of the newly-found country were rich in gold, silver and precious stones—emeralds, rubies, pearls and diamonds. They sought these things eagerly, forcing the natives to work the mines, while they took the wealth and sent it home to Spain in great clumsy ships called galleons.
 - 5. But it was not long before the skilful and daring English sailors began to dispute the rule of the Spaniards in the New World. This rivalry grew and grew, till it became a bitter and desperate warfare, ending finally in the mighty death-tussle of the Spanish Armada.
- 6. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603) the enmity between England and Spain was at its fiercest heat. The Spanish King was bitterly hostile, and prepared to invade England to drive

Elizabeth from the throne, and restore the Catholic religion in place of the Protestant. The English on their side stoutly bid him defiance, and wherever Spaniard met Englishman they flew at each other's throat as deadly enemies.

- 7. This warfare took place mostly on the sea. It is the favourite battle-ground of the English, and a terrible fight they made of it. For now arose that mighty band of sea-captains who carried the flag of England in triumph into every sea of the world—Drake and Hawkins, Davis and Frobisher, Raleigh and Gilbert, to name but a few of the great Elizabethans who sailed Westward Ho!
- 8. Of all these names, none is so famous as that of Francis Drake, the first Englishman who sailed round the world, the terror of the Spaniards. He was a Devonshire man, and the date of his birth is somewhat uncertain—some authorities say 1539, some say 1547. When he came to manhood the enmity between England and Spain on the sea was at its fiercest. Drake threw himself into the struggle with delight, and soon made his name dreaded wherever a Spanish galleon sailed.
- 9. There was no actual war declared between the two countries at the time, but the English Government looked with no disfavour on the doings of

Drake and his companions. Elizabeth and her ministers knew well that Philip, King of Spain, had in mind the conquest of England, and every galleon taken meant that he was a ship the poorer, and every cargo of treasure seized meant so much less wealth to be employed against them. So they were well content to wink at the unlawfulness of it all.

NOTES.

Abyss, a deep gulf or pit.
Genoese, native of Genoa, a famous seaport in Italy.

Rivalry, one struggling against nother.

Elizabethans, men who lived in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

II. Drake sails round the World.

- 1. Let us look at Drake's voyage round the world. We shall see not only how he carried out that famous exploit, but his doings on the way will furnish us with an excellent picture of the fashion in which the English sea-dogs were harassing the Spaniards in that day.
- 2. In December, 1577, Drake sailed out of Plymouth Sound in his ship, the *Pelican*, accompanied by three other vessels. The *Pelican*, the largest of the little fleet, was small enough when the task before her is considered. She was of 120 tons burden, and, placed beside one of our modern steamers, she would appear no more than a fishing boat.

The next in size was the *Elizabeth*, eighty tons, commanded by Captain Winter. The smallest of all was a tiny pinnace of twelve tons.

3. They had fair weather at the beginning of the voyage for the journey across the North Atlantic,



DRAKE'S 'GOLDEN HIND,' IN WHICH HE SAILED ROUND THE WORLD, 1577-1580.

and when that ocean was crossed they ran down the seaboard of South America. Drake was aiming to reach Peru, on the Pacific coast, where he had heard that great treasure was to be had.

4. The only way was by Cape Horn, through the

Straits of Magellan, as it is to-day. But at that time no one had been through save Magellan, the Portuguese, whose name the passage bears. Drake was of opinion that where a Portuguese had been an Englishman could follow, and he steered for the straits. It took him three weeks to beat through the seventy miles of passage, feeling every inch of the way with the lead. But the Pacific was sighted at last. It was early in September, 1578.

- 5. Three ships now remained, the *Pelican*, the *Elizabeth*, and the *Marigold*. The tiny pinnace had been burned. Drake thought she was too small to be of service. The Pacific belied its name as far as they were concerned, for a great westerly gale drove the ships hundreds of miles out of their course and far asunder. The *Marigold* went down; the *Elizabeth* made her way back to the shelter of Magellan's Straits. Here her captain, Winter, lay for three weeks, then sailed back to England.
 - 6. Drake meanwhile had sought shelter among the islands about Cape Horn, and there he wintered. In the spring he sailed north. He headed for Valparaiso, where he expected to meet Winter. It was the spot where they had agreed to rejoin each other, if separated. But the faint-hearted Winter

had returned home, much 'against the mariners' will.'

- 7. In Valparaiso lay a great galleon newly come into port. Never dreaming it was an English sail inthe offing, they ran up the Spanish colours and beat their drums in welcome. They were soon undeceived. The *Pelican* swiftly laid her aboard, and the English, shouting for joy of their first capture, sprang on to her deck. The Spaniards bounded over the taffrail into the sea and swam ashore. The *Pelican* now received the first of the rich cargo she was to bear back, some hundredweights of gold.
- 8. Drake sailed on, still hoping to find Winter along the coast. He reached a port to which the Spaniards carried down silver from the mines of the Andes. He sailed into it. Here again was no suspicion of danger. Drake found the silver piled in bars upon the quay, the men in charge of the mule train which had brought it down fast asleep beside the treasure.
- 9. The English boats rowed softly to the quay, and packed the silver bars beneath the thwarts. As they did so, a second train of mules came to the harbour with a rich load. The *Pelican's* men were quite ready for that, and before long it was all safe on board and Drake was on his way to the next

town. Here they made capture of a heap of bars of solid silver.

NOTES.

Pinnace, a small vessel moved either by sails or oars.

Belied, was untrue to.

Offing, the sea 'off' the shore. Spanish colours, the yellow flag of

Laid her aboard, the English ship

was laid alongside.

Taffrail, the rail round the deck which prevents things from falling into the sea.

Quay, the place where ships load

and unload.

Thwarts, the seats in a boat upon which the rowers sit.

III. Drake and the Treasure-ship.

- 1. By this time Drake felt certain that he must carry on the enterprise with the *Pelican* alone. He gave up the hope of meeting Winter, but for all that he steered northward again. And now he was coming to Lima, the greatest place of all, the port where was gathered the vast riches yielded by the mines of Peru.
- 2. He sailed into the harbour and found a dozen ships there. There was no difficulty in capturing them, for they were almost empty, and their crews were ashore. But upon search they yielded little or nothing. He soon found out he was a few days too late. A great galleon called the *Cacafueyo* had sailed away a few days before, loaded with the whole riches of the mines for that season, silver and gold and precious stones.
- 3. Away went Drake in pursuit. All eyes on the *Pelican* were on the watch. Drake had promised a

chain of gold to the first man who should sight the chase. She was to be known by the peculiar shape of her sails.

4. The Pelican ran 800 miles before the Cacafuego was seen and the chain won. She was sailing along a few miles ahead. It was afternoon, and Drake did not wish to come up with her till the darkness fell. She was close under the land, and if she got a hint that an English ship was following, the Spaniards would run her ashore, and her precious cargo would be lost.

5. Drake now checked the way of the *Pelican*, and waited for night. So little did the people of the *Cacafuego* suspect danger that they slackened sail, and waited for the stranger to come up, supposing it was a Spanish vessel. This confidence is explained by the fact that Drake's was the first English ship in those waters. He had the advantage of a complete surprise.

6. As soon as darkness fell, the *Pelican* spread her sails and shot swiftly up to the *Cacafuego*. The Spaniards on the deck of the latter heard the loud thunder of a broadside which cut their rigging to pieces, and next a flight of English arrows whistled among them.

7. Before they could recover from their surprise, the

men of the *Pelican* were on the Spanish deck sword in hand. The struggle was a matter of minutes. The Spaniards were swiftly overpowered, and the *Cacafuego* with her load of treasure was won.

- 8. No one but Drake and Queen Elizabeth ever knew the exact value of the wealth captured. It is known that there were twenty tons of solid silver, many hundredweights of gold in bars and nuggets, and 'a great store' of pearls, emeralds, and diamonds. But it is also known that this was but part of the capture.
- 9. The Pelican did much mischief to the Spaniards after the capture of the great treasure-ship, and after many adventures sailed for home across the Pacific and Indian Oceans and round the Cape of Good Hope. She sailed into Plymouth Harbour to the great joy and amazement of all, for she had long been given up for lost. It was two years and ten months since she weighed anchor and started on the voyage which first carried English seamen round the globe.
- 10. All England rang with the exploit. Elizabeth herself was never tired of hearing Drake tell his story. She had the *Pelican* brought round to the Thames, dined on board, and knighted Drake on his own quarter-deck.

- 11. Drake's whole life was full of the most daring deeds. In 1587 it was made known that the King of Spain was gathering a mighty fleet at Cadiz to invade England. Away sailed Drake with a small-squadron, boldly steered into the harbour where the fleet lay, and mauled and drubbed it unmercifully.
- 12. Over a hundred fine vessels were destroyed, some by Drake's fire, some by running foul of each other when trying to escape. Then the great seaman drew off, saying merrily that he had 'singed the King of Spain's beard.' He had, in truth, delayed the invasion by a year. When the 'Invincible Armada' came in 1588, Drake had a large share in the English victory.
- 13. He made voyage after voyage until his last, which was, as ever, against the Spaniards. He and Sir John Hawkins led an attack on the Spanish settlements in the Gulf of Mexico, but things went ill with them. Sir John Hawkins died, and, next, Drake was seized with a low fever. Of this he died in January, 1598, and was buried at sea, a fitting grave for one who had won all his glory on the waves.

NOTES.

Cargo, load.
Slackened sails, took their sails in.
Broadside, a number of cannon fired together.

Rigging, ropes by which the masts and sails are held in their places.

Invincible, not to be beaten.

THE APPROACH OF THE ARMADA.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

I. Raleigh's Voyages.

1. Sir Walter Raleigh was one of the most famousmen of the days of Queen Elizabeth. It was a time when many men were famous. England could boast



W Belegh

of great soldiers, great sailors, great statesmen, great writers. It is one of Sir Walter's titles to fame that he can be placed among every class named, and not be one of the lowest in any.

2. As a soldier, he fought in France, Spain, Ireland, and the Netherlands. As a sailor, he was

one of the foremost to cross over to America, then called the New World—for it had not been long known—and to explore the stormy Atlantic. As a

statesman, he laid before the Queen and the Council the plan of fighting the Spanish Armada on the sea, and never allowing the Spaniards to land. This plan was followed with great success. As a writer, he wrote a famous book, 'The History of the World,' and some excellent poems.

3. He was born in 1552, and came of a well-known Devonshire family, many of whose members have

made a name in history. Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a famous seaman and colonizer, was his half-brother.

4. He grew up to be a very handsome, brave, and clever young man. He went to Oxford, but left there at the age of seventeen to go to France to fight on



QUEEN ELIZABETH.

behalf of the French Protestants. Some years later he went to the Netherlands to help the Dutch, who were then trying to free themselves from the tyranny of the King of Spain.

5. During the reign of Elizabeth there was con-

tinual fighting and trouble in Ireland. The Irish rose against the English rule, and Raleigh served as a captain in the English army, and won great credit.

- 6. It is said that Raleigh gained the notice of Queen Elizabeth by flinging a splendid cloak he was wearing over a mud puddle, in order that the Queen might pass dry-shod. But whether this be true or not, it is certain that Raleigh stood high in Elizabeth's favour. She made him a knight, and gave him large estates in Ireland.
- 7. Raleigh was very fond of the sea, and eager to take a share in the wonderful work Elizabeth's famous seamen were doing. At that day vessels were often sailing from English ports bound for the unknown Western seas. Sometimes they were gone years, for long voyages were slow work then; and when they returned, they brought news of some country never before heard of, or they showed gold and pearls, or new fruits and plants—things unknown in England or Europe. Among these returned adventurers were seen men smoking a dark leaf rolled up. This was tobacco, the use of which they had learned from the Indians of the New World.
- 8. Sir Walter himself went on several of these voyages, and it is said that he first introduced potatoes and tobacco into England. Both of these

plants were brought from a colony which he founded on the eastern shores of America, and named Virginia in honour of Elizabeth.

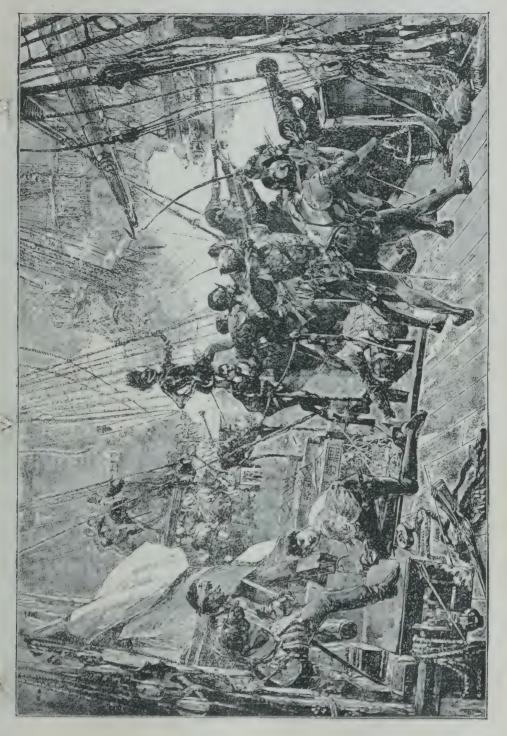
- 9. This colony did not thrive at first. Sir Walter made the mistake of sending out the wrong sort of people. The colonists were men who had no desire for hard work. They expected to find gold lying about in the New World ready for anyone to pick up, and were very disappointed when they found that the only way to gather wealth was by tilling the soil.
- 10. Two or three times Raleigh sent ships and men, spending a large fortune, but all to little purpose. Virginia never became a successful colony his day.

II. The Spanish Armada.

- 1. The year 1588 was a great one in Sir Walter's life, and in the life of everyone who lived within the four corners of England. It was the year of the Spanish Armada. In July, 1588, the sails of the Armada were seen, a mighty fleet of 149 great ships manned by 8,000 sailors and over 20,000 soldiers.
- 2..To these the English could oppose a force of ships much fewer and much smaller, but quick and handy in sailing, and manned by splendid seamen.

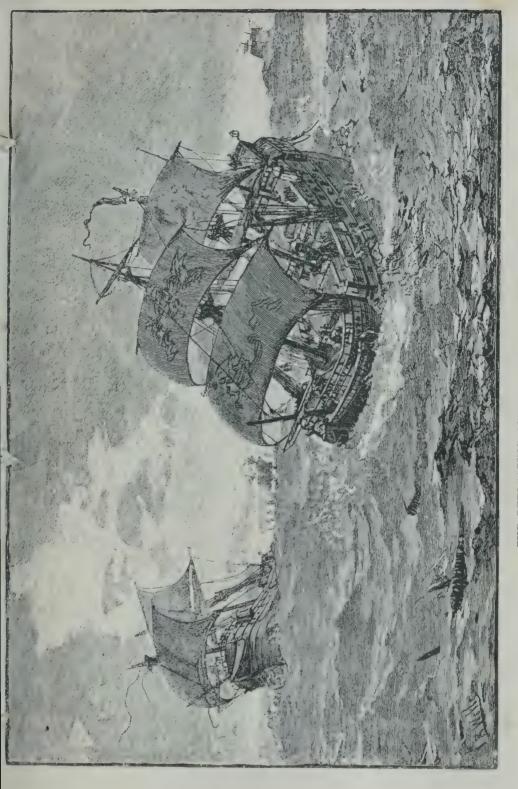
Greater sea-captains never lived than Drake and Hawkins, Davis and Frobisher; and Raleigh, whose plan of meeting the Spaniards on the sea had been adopted, was in the thick of it, from the first fight off Plymouth to the final rout of the Spanish ships beyond the Straits of Dover.

- 3. For a whole week the great sea-fight went on, as the Dons ran up the English Channel. Day after day the quick little English ships darted up to the great, slow Spanish hulks, and sent their cannon-balls splintering and crashing through the tall sides. So high were the Spanish ships, so low and handy the English, that very often the shot of the former flew clean over the latter without doing harm.
- 4. In this great week Sir Walter Raleigh and his friends of Devon had a large share. They harassed the Spaniards, knocking great holes into the sides of their ships, sinking some, burning others, turning the title of 'Invincible Armada' into an empty boast.
- 5. A few years later, in 1592, Sir Walter fell into disgrace with the Queen. His crime was that he got married. Elizabeth herself never married, and she did not like her courtiers to marry. But Raleigh married one of the Queen's Maids-of-Honour without her leave, and for this offence she sent him to prison.



He was released within a few months, and led a quiet life for the next three years.

- 6. Then he started on his most famous voyage. He was in search of the Golden City. Among the travellers and adventurers of those days there was a story of a wonderful city somewhere in South America where everything was of gold, a city full of riches beyond the dreams of men. It was often talked of, and was known by its Spanish name of El Dorado, the Golden.
- 7. Sir Walter believed that he had a good idea where the city lay, and he sailed across the Atlantic to the mouth of the great river Orinoco, which pours out its waters on the northern shore of South America. Leaving his ships at the mouth of the river, he went far up it in a small boat. He treated the Indians who lived on the banks kindly, and they guided him, and helped him all they could. But he found no Golden City. Nor was it ever found. It remained a dream and a fancy, but to this day its name is with us. If we wish to picture a place of wonderful riches, we say 'It is an El Dorado.'
- 8. Raleigh returned to England with many new plants, and he wrote an account of the beautiful country he had visited. After his return he went with Lord Howard and the Earl of Essex to attack



THE RETREATING ARMADA OFF THE IRISH COAST,

the Spaniards at Cadiz. This was a return stroke for the Armada. The English fleet found a great number of Spanish ships off the town, but such was the fear of the Spanish sailors that they would not fight. They set fire to their own ships in order that the English might not seize them, then rowed ashore in their boats and fled into the town.

9. The English followed them into Cadiz, and took the place by storm. So great was the destruction of Spanish ships that the power of Spain upon the sea was broken for ever. Raleigh won great praise in this famous exploit, for the plan of attack was formed by him.

NOTES.

Dons, Spaniards; from Don, a Spanish title, as Don John.

Courtier, a member of the Court, an attendant upon a King or Queen.

Maids - of - Honour, young ladies

of noble family who wait upon a

Cadiz, a seaport in the South-west of Spain.

Exploit, a bold deed.

III. His Last Voyage.

1. After the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1601 Raleigh fell upon evil times. He was accused of being the chief mover in a plot against James the First, and was tried and condemned to death. The sentence was not carried out at once. Indeed, Raleigh was such a favourite with the English people that James was afraid of a tumult arising if

so famous a man were beheaded, and Raleigh was thrown into the Tower.

2. Here he was shut up for nearly thirteen years. He passed much of his time in writing 'The History of the World,' a book which is written in noble and beautiful English. At last he offered, if James would let him go, to fetch the King a shipload of gold from mines of which he knew on the Orinoco. The greedy

King, who was always short of money, accepted this offer, and Raleigh sailed across the Atlantic with fourteen vessels.

3. But when he arrived on the other side of the sea he found the Spaniards everywhere



ARMS OF SIR W. RALEIGH.

ready to meet him and drive him back. It was not wonderful that they were prepared for him. The foolish King James had actually told the Spanish Ambassador where Raleigh was going and what he intended to do.

4. There was sharp fighting, and the Spanish town of St. Thomas was burnt down. But Raleigh's son was killed, and Sir Walter had to return with

his hands empty. The Spaniards complained bitterly to King James, and demanded Raleigh's death. The King was anxious to gain the friendship of Spain, and meanly consented to the death of the great Englishman. The old charge of sixteen years before was raked up again, and upon it Raleigh was brought to the block.

- 5. On a bitter morning in October the noble old hero came out to die. He spoke to the people, denying the charge of treason. It was so cold that a great fire had been lighted near the scaffold. The Sheriff called upon Sir Walter to come and warm himself. 'No, good Mr. Sheriff,' said he; 'let us despatch, for within this quarter of an hour my ague will come upon me; and if I be not dead before that, my enemies will say I quake for fear.'
- 6. He took up the axe, and looked carefully at it. He felt the edge, kissed the blade, and said, 'Tis a sharp medicine, but a sure cure for all diseases.'
- 7. When the axe fell, and that head which had planned so much good for England, and so much ill for her enemies, rolled in the dust, the great crowd gave a deep groan of sorrow and anger. The people hated Spain bitterly, and they knew that Raleigh had been put to death to please their ancient foe. There is no blacker blot on the name of the weak

and foolish James the First than this murder in cold blood of the last of Elizabeth's heroes.

NOTES.

Ambassador, a man who represents his country at a foreign Court.

Sheriff, the officer who has charge of an execution.

Ague. A person affected with ague cannot keep still; he shivers and shakes.

Quake, to shake, shiver.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

I. A Great Poet.

- 1. We said in the life of Sir Walter Raleigh that Elizabeth's day was famous for its great writers. It would not be too much to say that the age of Elizabeth was the most famous time in all English history for great poets, and the greatest of them all was William Shakespeare. He is more than that: he is the greatest poet that England, and perhaps the world, ever saw.
- 2. He was born on April 23, 1564, in Stratfordon-Avon, a pleasant little market town in Warwickshire. His father was a man in a fair position while
 Shakespeare was young, and the boy was sent to the
 grammar-school of the town. Then his father fell
 into poverty, and Shakespeare's education suffered.
 We are told that 'he had small Latin and less
 Greek.' Yet his plays are full of the widest knowledge, and he knew so much of every kind of life

that he seems to have studied and mastered everything which man can know.

3. It is said that he was very wild as a young man, and had to leave home because he went on a deer-stealing frolic to the park of a gentleman living near Stratford.

4. We do not know that it is true, but we do



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

know that he left Stratford when he was
twenty-two, and went
up to London to seek
his fortune. He was
already married; at the
age of nineteen he had
married Anne Hatha
way, who lived at
Shottery, a village
about a mile from Stratford.

5. At first he had a

very hard time of it in London trying to make his way. He is said to have held horses at the playhouse door, to have been a call-boy—that is, one who calls the actor and warns him to be ready to go on the stage. But in any case he soon began the great work of his life, the writing

of the most wonderful plays the world has ever known.

- 6. He began by reshaping and improving old plays. Next he began to write plays of his own, and the first he wrote was 'Love's Labour's Lost.' Then he wrote a play full of fun, called 'The Comedy of Errors'; following these came a beautiful piece of work, the 'Midsummer Night's Dream.'
- 7. Some of his most famous plays are historical. He wrote plays dealing with the wars in France of Henry the Fifth, the Wars of the Roses, and with Henry the Eighth and Wolsey. There are great numbers of people who can only figure to themselves the characters of those times as they are seen in Shakespeare. So lifelike is the picture the poet draws, that the man as Shakespeare sets him forth in the play lives to later days in that form. It may be possible that in history he is quite a different kind of man. But Shakespeare's idea of him is the one remembered.
 - 8. These plays were performed in London, and won great praise. Queen Elizabeth took much delight in them, and the famous men of her Court sought the company of the great player and poet. He acted in his own and other plays at the Globe Theatre, and is said to have been a very good actor.

- 9. It is quite certain that he soon grew prosperous among his London friends, for in 1597, when he was thirty-three years old, he bought a good house in Stratford called New Place. He was one of the owners of the Globe Theatre, where his plays were performed, and he became a wealthy man. No one envied him his prosperity, for he was good-natured and kind-hearted.
 - 10. We get a picture of him from Ben Jonson,



another famous writer of the day, who says: 'I loved the man, and do honour his memory as much as any. He was indeed honest, and of an open and free nature, had an excellent fancy, brave notions, and gentle expressions.'

11. He continued writing

up to the year 1613. For some years before his death he lived quietly in Stratford-on-Avon. Here he died on his birthday, April 23, 1616. He was fifty-two years old. He was buried in the parish church of Stratford-on-Avon, where his monument may still be seen. No one is alive who can claim descent from Shakespeare. He had three children,



SHAKESPEARE'S HOUSE, STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

two of whom grew up and married, but the family had completely died out by 1670.

NOTE.

Monument, a figure carved in stone in memory of a person.

II. His Plays.

- 1. In the foregoing lesson we have read almost all that is known about the life of Shakespeare. It is a strange thing, but we know very little about him. The greatest man of his time seems to have passed quietly out of life, and no one gathered up the facts we should have been glad to learn about him and his famous work.
- 2. Some people have wondered how Shakespeare, coming from a little country town, and having had but a poor education, could possibly have gained the knowledge of all the things he wrote of. Many of his plays do not deal with the English life that he knew, but with people and places far from England.
- 3. Yet we must remember that he walked about London streets with his eyes wide open, and the wonderful brain behind the eye observing all men and remembering all things. And at that day, even as now, London was the place where all nations met.
- 4. There Shakespeare could talk with the adventurers who had sailed the western seas and had long

stories to tell of the wonders of the New World; or perhaps they had gone East, and then they talked of India and its dusky Princes clad in rich robes stiff with gold; or they were traders to the Mediterranean, and he heard of the Moors of Northern Africa, the Turks, the Italians, of all the many nations who live

around that great in-

land sea.

5. And we must remember, too, that the printing - press was busy. For more than a century men had been turning the famous books of Italy, and Spain and France into English, and the press had been spreading the translations broadcast. We know that Shakespeare



COSTUME IN THE TIME OF ELIZABETH.

read these, because many of his plays are founded on stories contained in such books.

6. Much, also, was to be learned in the streets of Shakespeare's day by simply looking at the crowd which went to and fro. Nowadays, there is

but little difference between the dress of one class and another, but then, a single glance told you the rank or business of the passer-by. The nobleman went gay in silks and velvets, with rich ornaments of gold upon his sword-belt; the merchant wore a suit of plainer colour; the doctor's robe was edged with fur; the lawyer walked in a flowing gown; the citizen wore a russet jerkin and flat cap.

- 7. Into this busy flow of life Shakespeare stepped, bringing with him a knowledge already perfect of the green fields and the woods which lay about his native place. To this knowledge of Nature he now added the knowledge of men in the great world, and such was the use he made of what he knew that he seems to have seen all places and all kinds of people, with his own eyes.
- 8. He is great in every kind of play. There is the play which aims at making people laugh by its wit and fun, the comedy, and there are no comedies like Shakespeare's. They are so sunny, there is no malice in the laugh they raise, they are pure fun.
- 9. Then, again, there is the play called the tragedy, which paints the sadder side of life, which tells of the great man whose life breaks down into ruin, of the King cast from his throne, of the murdered Prince, of things unhappy and unfortunate. And

Shakespeare has written the greatest plays of tragedy the world ever saw.

- 10. His plays are great because his men and women are so real. He knew human nature so well that his people do, and say, and think just what we feel sure we should if we stood in their places.
- 11. Thus, when his plays were put upon the stage, people forgot they were looking upon a mere show, but followed everything as if it were quite real. They laughed at his clowns and jesters, were sad when they saw his Kings and Queens in great trouble, were joyful with the joyous, and wept with those that mourned.
- 12. And so it is to this day. Many of his plays are still performed, and those no longer seen on the stage are widely read. In fact, so completely is the language of Shakespeare worked into our speech that many of our commonest phrases are his. 'All that glitters is not gold,' 'Every inch a King,' 'What's in a name?' These and many other sayings often on our lips come from Shakespeare. Indeed, with the exception of the Bible, there is no book which has given us so many familiar sayings as the plays of Shakespeare.

NOTES.

SUMMARY.

ALFRED THE GREAT.-I.

Alfred the Great was born at Wantage, in Berkshire, in 849 A.D. His father was King of Wessex. Alfred was fond of study, and loved reading In those days very few people could read at all. He grew up in hard and dangerous times, for the Danes were trying to take England for themselves.

In 871 Alfred became King, and had to fight the Danes, who were now

swarming into Wessex.

ALFRED THE GREAT.—II.

After a little fighting at the beginning of his reign, Alfred had a few years of peace. Then a great army of Danes swept upon Wessex, in 878. The name of the Danish leader was Guthrum. Alfred was not ready for them and had to fly to the island of Athelney among the fens of Somerset.

He sent out and gathered his men, and made a sudden attack upon the Danes at Ethandun in Wiltshire. He caught the Danes off their guard, and

utterly defeated them.

The Danes begged for peace, and Guthrum their leader agreed to become a Christian. Alfred made peace with the Danes, and agreed by the Treaty of Wedmore to divide England with them. Alfred took the southern half of England; the Danes took the northern half.

Alfred showed himself a very wise man in undertaking no more work than he could do properly. He had no more trouble with the Danes till towards

the close of his reign.

Alfred now began to work for his people. He made wise laws, and saw that people obeyed them. He built a fleet to meet the Danes on the sea. He arranged the army so that there were always men ready to meet the enemy.

ALFRED THE GREAT.—III.

Alfred worked hard to make his people wiser and better. He set up schools, he himself taught, he asked good teachers from other countries to come to England. There was much to be done, for the Danes had done great mischief to the places where scholars were taught and books were written. Alfred encouraged the writing of new books, and was always busy writing of translating, so that his people might have books to read in their own language.

He sent men out to explore the Northern seas; he also sent out people to far-off countries in order to learn how other nations lived and worked, and so

gain useful knowledge. He was not a strong man. He suffered much from pain and weakness. Yet he never stopped working and planning for the good of his people.

DUNSTAN.

Dunstan was born at Glastonbury, in Somersetshire, in 925. He was educated at Glastonbury Abbey. He became a priest, and rose to be Abbot of Glastonbury. He was a very good scholar, and was not only learned in books, but understood how to paint, and carve, and work metals.

He was anxious to spread education, and he had a noble school at Glaston-

bury. At that day the only schools were to be found in the monasteries. Dunstan wished all priests to know a trade, so that they could teach people

how to do useful work.

He became Archbishop of Canterbury, and was King Edgar's right-hand man in managing the country. Dunstan also did his utmost to get good. pious men for priests, and to set up schools.

After Edgar's death Dunstan helped to make his son Edward King. But

Edward was soon murdered, and his half-brother Ethelred became King.

Dunstan now retired from Court, and went back to his old work of teaching and preaching, writing and painting. He died in 988 A.D.

HAROLD, THE LAST OF THE SAXONS.-I.

Harold was not a member of the Royal Family. He came to the throne

because he was the bravest and wisest man the Witan could find.

Before he came to the throne Harold had taken a great share in ruling England. The country was divided at that time into several earldoms, each I which was ruled for the King by a great nobleman. Harold was Earl of

Duke William of Normandy was very angry when he heard Harold was elected King. The Duke expected to be King of England himself. He said

that Edward the Confessor had promised him the crown.

He began at once to collect a strong army to come over to England and fight with Harold. He was a terrible enemy. He was strong, brave, very clever, very cruel, very cunning, a very able soldier. He feared no one. but everyone feared him.

HAROLD, THE LAST OF THE SAXONS.—II.

The Normans were already well known in England. Edward the Confessor had spent his youth in Normandy, and his Norman friends followed him to

the English Court.

There was much quarrelling between the Saxons and the Normans. Harold's father, Godwin, had been a great enemy of the King's Norman friends, and Harold disliked the Normans very much. Soon William gathered a great army. He also obtained the blessing of the Pope, who sent him a sacred banner.

While Harold was waiting for William, he heard that his brother Tostig and Harold Hardrada, King of Norway, had landed in the North and were laying waste the country. Tostig had been banished from England, and had now returned to seize his former position, having obtained the help of Harold

Hardrada and a great host of Danes.

Harold set off North and surprised the enemy at Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire. There was a great battle, and Harold won. Tostig and Hardrada

Word now came that the Normans had landed. Harold set off South again, calling on the people of England to join him, but few came from the North and centre of the country.

HAROLD, THE LAST OF THE SAXONS.-III.

The Normans and Saxons met at Senlac. Harold placed his men along the crest of a ridge, and threw up a bank of earth and fixed a palisade to break the rush of the Norman horsemen. He gave his men strict orders not to break their line. There was a great contrast between the two armies. The Normans were men whose only business was fighting; the Saxons were farmers and workmen for the most part.

The battle was begun by a minstrel named Taillefer, who rode forward sing-

The Norman horsemen tried to break a way through the palisade, but the English beat them back.

Harold and his brothers fought under the English standard, which the

Normans tried in vain to capture.

Duke William was thrown to the ground. It was thought he was killed. His followers began to give way. He pulled off his helmet to show he was still alive, and brought them back to battle.

HAROLD, THE LAST OF THE SAXONS.—IV.

William thought of a plan to break the English line. Some of his men pretended to run away. The English left their places and ran after them. Now the line was broken, and the Normans got inside the palisade. Still Harold and his war-band fought around the Dragon Standard. Night was coming, and William became anxious. He told his archers to shoot into the air, so that their arrows fell upon the heads of the English.

One of these arrows struck Harold in the eye as he looked up. The death of the English King decided the battle in favour of the Normans. Duke

William was now William the Conqueror.

HEREWARD THE WAKE.-I.

William the Conqueror had much fighting to do after the Battle of Hastings. The Saxons made their last stand in the Fen district, near the Wash. Their

leader was a famous hero, Hereward the Wake.

Hereward had been driven from England, but he came back when he heard that his old home had been given to a stranger. He entered his native village, and found the Norman spoilers already there. His brother had been killed, trying to keep the Normans out.

Hereward burst into the hall where the Normans were feasting, and slew them. Then he formed a camp in the Isle of Ely, among the Fens. The English gathered around him, and under his leadership sallied out to harass the Normans.

HEREWARD THE WAKE.-II.

At last William marched against Hereward. The Norman general tried to build a bridge across the bog which lay about Hereward's camp, but the ground was too soft. Then he built a floating bridge. As soon as the bridge was ready, the Normans marched across it. The bridge gave way, and the Normans rolled into the deep black mud and were choked.

William now set soldiers about the isle to prevent food entering, but Here-

ward and his men had plenty of food to their hand.

HEREWARD THE WAKE.-III.

Hereward went to William's Court to gather news. He disguised himself as a potter. He was riding a very swift mare. When he reached the Court, someone recognised him, but he managed to turn suspicion aside. He was sent into the kitchen, and there the servants began to make fun of him.

Meanwhile he listened, and learned much. Hereward struck one of his tormentors, and killed the man. He was carried before William, who ordered him to be kept till the hunt was over. But Hereward broke out of prison,

and escaped on his swift mare.

William at last got into the Isle of Ely. Some false monks showed him

Hereward submitted, and it is said that he was slain by some Norman knights who were jealous of him.

THOMAS BECKET .- I.

Thomas Becket was born in London in 1118. His father was a merchant who rose to be Mayor of London. He was well educated, and became a

member of the household of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Henry the Second became acquainted with Becket, and made him one of his own servants. Becket rose from post to post till he became Chancellor of England and the second man in the realm. Henry the Second and Becket were great friends. They worked together and played together.

At last Henry made Becket Archbishop of Canterbury. This led to a great change, not only in Becket's life, but in his conduct towards the King.

THOMAS BECKET .- II.

At that time all Churchmen who had done wrong were tried in Church courts. Henry wished every evil-doer to be tried in King's courts, and by the common law of the land. Very often a wicked man escaped with a much ighter sentence in a Church court than he would have received in an ordinary court.

But Becket, when he became Archbishop of Canterbury, did not help his naster to lessen the power of the Church. Instead, he strove with all his

night to uphold the Church against the King.

Henry made some laws, called the Constitutions of Clarendon.

refused to obey them or to permit the clergy to chey them. A great quarre broke out between the former friends, and Becket was driven from the country.

THOMAS BECKET.—III.

At last the King and Becket became friends once more, and Becket returned

to England, to the joy of the Kentish people.

But Becket began to punish some of the Bishops, and they hastened to Henry to complain. In his anger, Henry spoke hastily, wishing someone would clear Becket out of his way.

Four of the King's knights took him at his word, crossed the sea to England and went to Canterbury. They found Becket in the cathedral, and demanded he should do as they wished. Becket refused. They fell upon him

and slew him

Henry was bitterly sorry for his hasty words, and did penance for them. The people regarded Becket as a saint, and went on pilgrimage to his tomb.

STEPHEN LANGTON.-I.

Stephen Langton was Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of King John. John was a very bad King. He robbed and ill-treated his people.

In 1214 Barons and people joined against him, and agreed to force the

King to observe the laws and customs of England.

They drew up a paper called the Great Charter, and asked John to sign it. He refused. His people took up arms, and compelled him to sign it. John signed Magna Carta at Runnymede, near Windsor, on June 15, 1215.

He was in a great rage, and soon collected a body of foreign soldiers, and began to do dreadful mischief throughout the country. Luckily for his people, he died the next year, in 1216.

STEPHEN LANGTON.-II.

There were two clauses in the Great Charter more important than any of the others. One said that no freeman shall be punished unless he breaks the law. In those days men who had broken no law were often punished if they had offended some great man.

The second said that justice should not be denied, or delayed, or sold to any

man

Upon these clauses rest the safety of all honest men and the prosperity of the country. No man will do his best if there is a chance he may be robbed of the fruits of his labour. Without such clauses as these two, there can be no freedom in a country.

SIMON DE MONTFORT.-I.

Simon de Montfort was not an Englishman by birth, but after he came to the country he proved a friend and helper of the people. He was the brother-in-law of Henry the Third (1216-1272). Henry was a bad King, wasteful and extravagant. He showed much favour to foreigners. He misgoverned the

country. Simon de Montfort, at the head of the Barons, forced the King to

observe the laws of the Great Charter.

They set up a Council to help in the government. Simon de Montfort called the first assembly which resembles our modern Parliament. In 1265 he summoned members from towns and counties.

SIMON DE MONTFORT.-II.

By means of Parliament the affairs of the nation could be better managed. The King had been in the habit of raising money by taxes, by force, or by begging. Parliament could settle how much money should be raised, and in what way. It became a check on the power of the King.

There was much fighting between De Montfort and his friends and Henry the Third. In 1265 Prince Edward overthrew Simon's son at Kenilworth. The royal troops then attacked De Montfort at Evesham. De Montfort was

defeated and slain.

His death was much mourned by the people, but he did not die in vain. His work lived after him.

EDWARD THE FIRST.-I.

Edward the First became King of England in 1272. He was well known

to the English people, and regarded himself as one of them.

He was a good scholar, a good man of business, kind-hearted, and warm-All his life he worked for two main objects. One was to make , himself ruler of the whole of Great Britain; the other was to give the people a better government, and more security in their daily life.

His first aim was to subdue the Welsh, who did much mischief on the

Forders between Wales and England.

EDWARD THE FIRST.—II.

Edward called upon Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, to acknowledge him as Overlord. Llewelyn refused. Edward marched against him with an army.

Llewelyn retreated to Snowdon, but Edward starved him out. Llewelyn submitted, and married the King's cousin. In a few years war broke out again. Llewelyn was surprised and slain. His brother David was captured and put to death.

Wales now fell into the hands of Edward, and he introduced English law,

and divided the country into shires.

EDWARD THE FIRST.—III.

Edward now turned to Scotland. The King of Scotland died, and the crown came to his grand-daughter, a little girl four years old. It was agreed that she should marry Edward's son. But she died on her voyage from Norway to Scotland, and all was confusion. Thirteen nobles claimed the crown, and Edward was asked to decide among them. He decided in favour of John Balliol, who acknowledged Edward as his Overlord. The Scottish people were very angry at this, and forced Balliol to defy Edward.

Edward led an army into Scotland, defeated the Scots, and brought back

with him the stone upon which Scottish Kings were crowned.

The Scotch broke out again under Sir William Wallace. Edward went again to Scotland, and defeated Wallace. The latter fled, but was seized some years afterwards and put to death.

Edward died in 1307, when marching once more to put down the Scots.

EDWARD THE FIRST.—IV.

Edward was a great law-giver as well as warrior. He made many laws to

protect the people and strengthen the power of the Crown.

His greatest work was the calling of the Model Parliament of 1295. To this Parliament came members to speak for every class of his subjects. Taxes were now raised on imports and exports. These taxes were called Customs.

EDWARD THE THIRD AND THE BLACK PRINCE.--I.

Edward the Third was only fourteen when he came to the throne in 1327. He had at once to begin fighting with the Scots. He marched against them, but they avoided him. A few years later he overthrew the Scots at Halidon Hill (1333).

Next there broke out a great war with France, the Hundred Years' War. Edward claimed the French crown. His claim was bad, because he claimed through his mother, and the French had a law, the Salic law, which forbade a woman to reign.

In 1340 Edward won a great sea-fight at Sluys.

EDWARD THE THIRD AND THE BLACK PRINCE .-- II.

In 1346 Edward and his son were marching through France with an English army, when they were met by a French army far greater in number. A battle was fought at Creey. It was won by the English, and, above all, by the archers, who shot so well that they slew the French by thousands.

The Black Prince had a great share in the victory. He commanded in the foremost line, and was at one time nearly overpowered. But he rallied his

men, and at night-fall the French broke and fled.

EDWARD THE THIRD AND THE BLACK PRINCE.—III.

Edward next laid siege to the town of Calais. He placed his army about it, and stayed before the walls a whole year. The people in the town suffered dreadfully from famine. A great French army came to Calais, but failed to drive Edward from the town. When it went away, the people of Calais lost hope. Edward said he would forgive the rest of the citizens, if six would give themselves up to suffer for their fellows. Six brave men were found who agreed to do so. The King ordered them to be executed, but Queen Philippa begged him to spare them, and he did so.

The city of Calais now remained in English hands for more than 200 years.

EDWARD THE THIRD AND THE BLACK PRINCE. -IV.

In 1348 the plague came to England, and half the people died. The sickness was greatly helped by the dirty state in which people kept their houses and streets at that time. They were not careful to eat pure food and drink clean water.

Half the labourers were now dead, and the other half saw a good chance of demanding higher wages. Many of the labourers had been compelled to work on their master's land so many days in the year. They now ran away to avoid this forced labour. The masters tried to keep the labourers in their old place, but they failed, and the working classes became much better off.

EDWARD THE THIRD AND THE BLACK PRINCE.-V.

In 1356 there was a great battle between the French and English at Poitiers, in France. The Black Prince led the English, and his chances of victory seemed very small. His men were short of food and weary after a long march. The French were so certain of victory that they would not let

the English go on reasonable terms.

The battle began, and the English archers did terrible mischief to the French. Next there was a great struggle between the men-at-arms. King John of France fought well, but the Black Prince and his men bore all before them. The French King was taken, and his army broken to pieces. The yeoman and peasant with their long-bows were more than a match for great nobles clad in armour. Cannon were first used at Creey.

EDWARD THE THIRD AND THE BLACK PRINCE. VI.

Edward the Third reigned over England for fifty years. During this time Parliament gained much authority. The members refused to grant money unless the King would grant reforms. Edward was obliged to agree, because he wanted money very badly for his great wars. Sometimes the King tried to raise money without coming to ask Parliament to grant a tax. It was resolved that no money should be paid to the King without consent of Parliament. Trade increased greatly. English now began to be used in the courts of law. The Black Prince died in 1376, and Edward the Third in 1377.

JOHN WYCLIFFE.-I.

John Wycliffe was born about 1324, in Yorkshire. He studied at Oxford, and became a very learned man. He attacked the friars. The friars came to England in the thirteenth century. At first they were poor, hard-working, and pious. They became favourites of the people, and were spoiled by prosperity: they became rich, idle, and wicked. John Wycliffe not only spoke against them, but set up an order of poor priests to do the work the friars neglected.

Next John Wycliffe attacked the Pope. The Pope drew much money from England, and this money was often used for the benefit of England's enemies.

John Wycliffe's opinion was asked upon this.

JOHN WYCLIFFE.—II.

Wycliffe declared that the Pope had no right to these payments. He called upon the great men of the Church to put aside their idle pleasures and do their duty. They were very angry with him, and Wycliffe would have suffered but for powerful friends.

Wycliffe's poor priests carried his teachings to every corner of the country. His followers were called Lollards, and their numbers grew rapidly. In later

days many of them were burnt at the stake.

Wycliffe was driven from Oxford, and went to Lutterworth, in Leicestershire. Here he lived quietly, writing and translating the Bible. He died in 1384, and thirty years afterwards his enemies dug up his body, burnt it, and flung the ashes into a neighbouring brook.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

Geoffrey Chaucer, a great English poet, was born about 1340. He was in the service of Edward the Third, and fought in France, where he was taken prisoner and ransomed. He was sent abroad on missions, and sat in Parliament. He was well acquainted with every class of society. His most famous poem is the 'Canterbury Tales.' It tells us about a band of pilgrims going to Canterbury, and the tales they told each other on the way.

Chaucer describes all sorts of people very exactly, and so we learn much of the English of his day. In his latter years he was not well off; but in 1399 Henry the Fourth became King, and he befriended Chaucer, who died in

1400 and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

HENRY THE FIFTH.-I.

Henry the Fifth came to the throne in 1413. As a young man he had been very wild; but he proved an able, sensible King, and was careful in the performance of his duties. In 1415 he made war upon France. A French war was very popular with the English. The nobles hoped for glory and ransoms; the common soldiers thought of plunder.

Henry crossed to France, and captured Harfleur, at the mouth of the Seine. Sickness broke out in his army, and in a short time half of his men died. He marched toward Calais. He was very short of food, and many of his men were ill. A great French army barred their way to Calais. Henry drew up

his men ready to fight.

HENRY THE FIFTH.-II.

Next morning the English prepared to receive the French. Henry depended chiefly on his archers, of whom there were 5,000. The archers fixed stakes before them to stop the French horsemen. The French would not attack, so the English went against them. The archers shot fiercely, and many of the French horsemen fell. The latter galloped at the archers, but their horses stuck fast in the soft earth. The French were thrown into confusion, and the English slew them as they pleased. Henry was in the thick of the fight, and received many blows.

The French lost great numbers of their chief men. The English loss was

very small. The fight is known as the Battle of Agincourt. Henry marched to Calais, and sailed home. The English received him with great joy.

HENRY THE FIFTH.-III.

Two years after Agincourt Henry made another expedition to France. He captured Rouen, the capital of Normandy. A treaty was now made called the Treaty of Troyes (1420). Henry was to marry the daughter of the King of France and become heir to the French crown.

The French King had a son, who did not agree to this. He gathered an

army to support his claim to the crown.

In 1421 Henry returned to England, but soon bad news arrived. The French Dauphin had defeated the English troops. Henry went back to France, and all went well again until he fell ill. He grew worse, and died at a castle near Paris. He was only thirty-three.

His body was carried back to England and buried in Westminster Abbey. He left a son eight months old, who became Henry the Sixth. During the

latter's reign the English lost all the land they held in France.

THE KING-MAKER.-I.

The King has not always been the most powerful man in England. In former times a great Baron, whose followers served him as soldiers, could often raise as strong an army as the King. The last of these great barons was Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick, the King-maker. He was very rich and powerful. He could raise an army of many thousands of soldiers by calling upon his tenants and retainers. He took a great share in the Wars of the Roses. He was a Yorkist, and largely by his aid a Yorkist King (Edward the Fourth) came to the throne. Next he quarrelled with Edward, and rose against him. Edward had to fly.

THE KING-MAKER.-II.

Warwick now brought Henry the Sixth (Lancastrian) out of the Tower, and set him on the throne. Edward returned, and his friends gathered about him. A great battle was fought at Barnet on Easter Sunday, 1471. Warwick was defeated and slain. Soon the last battle of the Wars of the Roses was fought at Tewkesbury. Again Edward won, and the struggle was over. In the Wars of the Roses the old, fierce, quarrelsome, lawless nobility were slain. Never after these wars do we find a subject as strong as the Sovereign.

WILLIAM CAXTON.-I.

Four hundred and fifty years ago there were no printed books in England. All the books were written by hand, and were very dear. Then a man cut blocks of wood into the shape of letters, set them together in a frame to make a page, and printed from them. This was about 1430, and the first printing was done in Holland.

In 1470 William Caxton set up the first printing-press in England.

William Caxton learned to print in Bruges, where he had lived as a tradesman for many years. The first book he printed was a poem called 'The

History of Troy,' which he translated from French into English. He was fifty years of age when he returned to England and set up his press in a house near Westminster Abbey.

WILLIAM CAXTON.—II.

He printed nearly one hundred books in twenty-one years. Printing is one of the greatest inventions. It spreads knowledge, it gives great pleasure, by means of reading, to all classes: for good and cheap books are within the reach of all. Modern printing is much more fast and regular than old printing. There are still to be seen books and placards printed by Caxton.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.-I.

Wolsey was born in 1471 at Ipswich. His father was a butcher, who gave his son a good education. Wolsey entered the Church, and rose in the favour of Henry the Seventh. He rose to greater favour in the reign of Henry the Eighth, who made him Chancellor of England and Archbishop of York. The Pope made him a Cardinal. He was the greatest man in England after the King. He managed all foreign affairs, and lived in great splendour. The kings of other countries were anxious to be friendly with him. In 1520 he was one of the chief figures at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, where the Kings of England and France met.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.-II.

Wolsey was hated by the nobles, loved by the people. He spent money on education and loved learning. His great desire was to be Pope. He hope to gain this position by the help of the King of France or the Emperor of

Germany, but neither helped him as he wished.

Henry the Eighth now became anxious to put away his wife Catharine and marry someone else. Only the Pope could break the marriage, and the King expected Wolsey to arrange everything as he desired. Wolsey failed. The Pope dared not break the marriage, because he feared the Emperor of Germany, Catharine's nephew. The Pope put the matter off again and again and would give no decision.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.-III.

Henry flew into a great rage. His chief anger fell upon Wolsey, and the great Cardinal lost all his authority (1529). He gave up all he owned to the King, but this did not save him. He was condemned to a great fine and imprisonment. The imprisonment was forgiven, and he was ordered to go to York. Soon he was arrested, charged with high treason. He began the journey to London, but got no farther than Leicester, where he died at the abbey (1530).

SIR THOMAS MORE.—I.

Sir Thomas More was born in London in 1480. He received a good education and became a lawyer. He rose to be the most famous lawyer of his day.

He was a great favourite with Henry the Eighth. He was a man of very sweet temper, and treated his children very kindly. He was made Lord High Chancellor after Wolsey fell into disgrace. He was now chief judge in England.

SIR THOMAS MORE.—II.

Sir Thomas then fell into disgrace because he did not agree with the King breaking off his marriage with Catharine. Next Henry attacked the Pope's power in England, destroyed it, and made himself head of the Church in England. More did not agree with this, and Henry became angry with him. More was tried for treason, and, though nothing could be proved against him, condemned to death. He went to the scaffold with the greatest calmness, and died with a smile upon his lips. His head was set up on a spike on London Bridge, but his daughter took it down and buried it.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.—I.

To-day the country of America is familiar to all. Four hundred years ago it had just been heard of in England. It was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492.

At first the Spaniards held the upper hand in the New World. They discovered great riches, and sent them home to Spain. There was great enmity between England and Spain. The English fought the Spaniards whenever they met them, and took their ships.

Of all the English captains, Francis Drake was the most famous. He was born in Devonshire, and soon became known as a terrible enemy to the Spaniards. There was no open war between the countries, but the English Government made no attempt to check Drake and his fellows.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.—II.

In 1577 Drake sailed out of Plymouth Harbour, sailed across the Atlantic, down the coast of South America, and passed through Magellan Straits into the Pacific Ocean.

In the spring of 1578 he sailed along the western coast of South America, seizing many Spanish ships and much treasure.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.-III.

At Lima, where he expected to get much gold, he found that the treasureship had sailed. He pursued it, caught it, and seized it easily. It contained immense riches.

Drake sailed westwards across the Pacific and Indian Oceans, round the Cape of Good Hope into the Atlantic, and northwards home. He was absent nearly three years, and all had given his ship up for lost.

In 1587 he attacked a Spanish fleet at Cadiz and destroyed it. In 1588 he had a great share in beating the Spanish Armada. In 1597 he sailed to attack the Spanish settlements in the Gulf of Mexico. In January, 1598, he was seized with fever, died, and was buried at sea.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.-I.

Sir Walter was a soldier, a seaman, a statesman, a writer. He was born in Devonshire in 1552, and educated at Oxford. He fought in France and in Holland and in Ireland. He was fond of the sea, made several voyages, and founded the colony of Virginia. He introduced tobacco and potatoes into this country. His colony of Virginia did not flourish because the wrong sort of people went there.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.-II.

In 1588 the Spanish Armada sailed against England. There was a great battle between the English and Spanish ships, but after a week's fighting the English won the fight. In 1592 Sir Walter fell into disgrace with Queen Elizabeth. He married one of her Maids-of-Honour without permission, and was sent to prison. Three years later he sailed up the Orinoco in search of the Golden City, but failed to find it. In 1596 he took part in the attack upon Cadiz, and helped to finally break the sea-power of Spain.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.—III.

When James the First came to the throne Raleigh fell into disfavour. He was accused of plotting against the King, and shut up in the Tower. Here he stayed for nearly thirteen years writing the 'History of the World.' He was released to fetch James gold from the Orinoco. He sailed across the Atlantic, but the expedition failed, and Sir Walter returned with no gold.

The Spaniards, whose settlements had been attacked, complained to James, and the King determined to put him to death on the old charge of plotting. He was accordingly executed, to the great indignation of the English people.

He died calmly and bravely.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.-I.

Shakespeare was born at Stratford-on-Avon in 1564. He was educated at the grammar-school. At the age of twenty-two he went to London. He

became connected with the theatre, both as actor and writer.

His plays were received with great favour, and he prospered. In 1597 he bought a house at Stratford called New Place. To this house he retired about 1608. He wrote until 1613, and died in 1616, aged lifty-two. He was buried in Stratford Church. His family died out in 1670.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.-II.

We know but little of the facts of Shakespeare's life. It has been a matter of wonder how he came to know so much. But the printing-press had been busy, and he read widely. In London, too, could be met men who had seen many things, and he talked with them. In his native place he learned to know Nature; in London he learned to know men. He is equally great in comedy, the play intended to amuse, and in tragedy, the play which deals with sad things. Many of his plays are still performed, and many of our most familiar sayings come from his plays.

FRAMEWORK OF DATES SHOWING THE POSITION OF 'FAMOUS ENGLISHMEN' IN HISTORY, AND ALSO SOME MAIN EVENTS.

(The dates in heavier type refer more particularly to the contents of this book.)

B.C.

55. Cæsar's first visit to Britain.

54. Cæsar's second visit to Britain.

43. The Romans return to Britain.

78-84. Agricola completes the conquest of Britain.

426. All Roman troops withdrawn from Britain.

449. The Saxons begin to settle in Britain.

80. Almost all modern England in Saxon hands.

827. Egbert, first King of the English, grandfather of Alfred.

849. Birth of Alfred the Great.

871. Alfred comes to the throne. In the same year six battles are fought with the Danes.

878. Alfred flees before Guthrum. He overthrows the Danes at Ethandun. Treaty of Wedmore.

886. Alfred fortifies London.

893-897. Fighting with Hasting and the Danes

901. Death of Alfred.

925. Birth of Dunstan.

959. Edgar comes to the throne.

975. Edward the Martyr becomes King.

978. Ethelred (afterwards the Unready) becomes King.

988. Death of Dunstan.

1002. St. Brice's Day. Massacre of the Danes.

1016. Completion of the Danish conquest. (A fresh invasion of Danes began • in 984.)

1042. The old English line restored. Edward the Confessor becomes King.

1063. Harold subdues the Welsh.

1066. Harold becomes King. William invades England. Battle of Serlac, or Hastings. Battle of Stamford Bridge.

THE NORMAN KINGS.

A.D.

1066. William I. is crowned.

1071. Hereward the Wake forms his camp of refuge.

1072. Hereward submits.

1087. William II. is crowned.

1100. Henry I. is crowned.

1135. Stephen of Blois is crowned.

THE HOUSE OF PLANTAGENET.

1154. Henry II. is crowned.

1154-1162. Becket is Chancellor.

1162. Becket becomes Archbishop of Canterbury.

- 1164. The Constitutions of Clarendon. Becket refuses to accept them, and is banished.
- 1170. Becket returns to England, and is murdered.

1189. Richard I. is crowned.

1199. John is crowned.

1206. Stephen Langton appointed Archbishop.

1215. The Great Charter is signed.

- 1216. Death of John, and Henry III. becomes King. 1238. Simon de Montfort marries the King's sister.
- 1258. Provisions of Oxford. A Council is elected to help the King in government.
- 1265. De Montfort summons the First Parliament. Battle of Evesham De Montfort is slain.
- 1272. Edward I. becomes King.
- 1278. Writ of 'Quo warranto.'
- 1283. Conquest of Wales. Llewelyn, the last native Prince, is killed.

1284. First English Prince of Wales born.

1290. Death of the Maid of Norway.

1291. Edward decides that Balliol is King of Scotland.

1296. Balliol revolts, and is deposed.

1298. Edward defeats Wallace at Falkirk.

1305. Execution of Wallace.

- 1307. Death of Edward I. when marching against the Scots. His son. Edward II., becomes King.
- 1327. Edward III. becomes King.
- 1330. The Black Prince is born.

1333. Battle of Halidon Hill.

- 1337. The Hundred Years' War begins.
- 1340. Battle of Sluys.
- 1346. Battle of Crecy.
- 1347. Calais is taken.
- 1348. The Black Death.
- 1356 Battle of Poitiers.
- 1376. Death of the Black Prince.

THE HOUSE OF PLANTAGENET-continued.

A.D.

1377. Death of Edward III., and Richard II. becomes King.

1384 Death of John Wycliffe.

1399. Richard II. is deposed.

THE HOUSES OF LANCASTER AND YORK.

1399. Henry IV. becomes King.

1400. Death of Chaucer.

1413. Henry V. becomes King.

1415. Hundred Years' War resumed. Battle of Agincourt.

1420. Treaty of Troyes.

1422. Death of Henry V., and Henry VI. becomes King.

1455. The Wars of the Roses begin.

1461. Henry VI. is deposed, and Edward IV. becomes King.

1470. Warwick rises against Edward IV., and the latter flees to France.

1471. Edward returns. Warwick is slain at Barnet. Battle of Tewkesbury. Death of Henry VI.

1483. Edward V. becomes King; reigns a few weeks. Richard III. becomes

1485. Richard III. is killed at Bosworth.

HOUSE OF TUDOR.

1485. Henry VII. becomes King.

1491. Death of Caxton. 1509. Henry VIII. becomes King.

7515. Wolsey becomes Lord Chancellor and Cardinal.

1527. Henry wishes to break off his marriage with Catharine.

1529. Fall of Wolsey. Thomas More made Chancellor.

1530. Death of Wolsey.

1535. Act of Supremacy. Henry declared 'Supreme Head of the Church of England.'

1535. Execution of Sir Thomas More.

1547 Edward VI. becomes King.

1553. Mary becomes Queen.

1558. Elizabeth becomes Queen.

1577. Drake starts on his voyage round the world.

1584. Raleigh takes possession of Virginia.

1588. The Spanish Armada.

1595. Death of Drake.

1596. Expedition to Cadiz.

1603. Death of Elizabeth, and accession of James I. The House of Stuart now begins to rule.

1616. Death of Shakespeare. 1618. Execution of Raleigh.



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